Tuesday April 15 1997

Abu Dhabi D 8.50 Albania US$ 2 Andorra FF 10 Austria AS 30 Bahrain BD 0.85 Belgium BF 65 Bulgaria LV 500 Canada C$ 3.95 Croatia KN 12.50 Cyprus CE 1.00 Czech Republic KC50 Denmark DK 15 Dubai D 8.50 Egypt EC 6.50 Estonia K 30 Finland FM 12 France FF 10 Germany DM 3.50 Greece D 400 Hong Kong HK$ 25 Hungary F 280 Iceland IK 185 Israel NIS 11.50 Italy L 3,000 Jordan JD 1.25 Kenya KSH 150 Kuwait KD 0.50 Latvia US$ 2 Lebanon LL 3000 Luxembourg LF 65 Madeira E 270 Malta ML 0.42 Morocco D 25 Netherlands G 4.00 Norway NK 16 Oman OR 1.00 Pakistan R 60 Poland Z 8.20 Portugal E 240 Qatar QR 8.50 Russia US$ 2.75 Saudi Arabia R 10 Slovakia SK 60 Slovenia SLT 200 Spain P 250 Sweden SK 17 Switzerland SF 3.20 Thailand B 80 Turkey TL 120,000 Ukraine US$ 3.50 USA US$ 2.75

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46,838

Women

The astronaut who made it to space

G2 pages 4-5

Holland turns the tide

The city on the sea

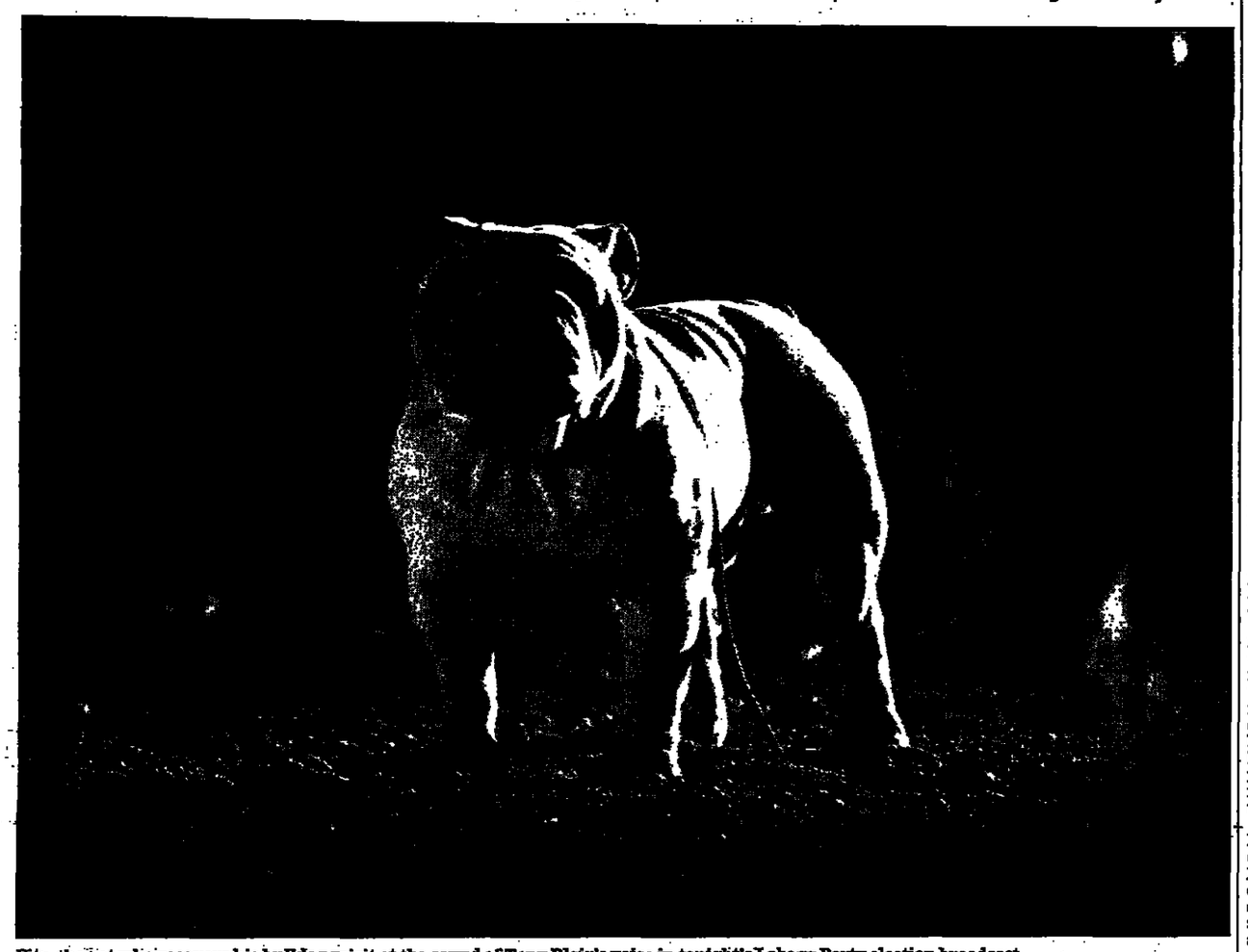
page 9

Education

Struggling with the current in the O-Bridge system

G2 pages 10-11

You've seen the chickens, bears and rhino. Now meet Labour's bulldog. (This one is not a joke).



Fitz, the pet who recovers his bulldog spirit at the sound of Tony Blair's voice in tonight's Labour Party election broadcast

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

THE Labour Party will tonight unleash the great British bulldog as its latest election weapon, in an unashamed pitch for the patriotic vote.

Hot on the heels of the menagerie of chickens, foxes, rhinos and bears that dominated the start of the election campaign, the symbol of Britain's strength — traditionally used by the Tories — will feature in tonight's party political broadcast to underline Tony Blair's message that Britain can be better under Labour. The star of tonight's broadcast is a three-year old pedigree British bulldog called Fitz, which party officials said was a family pet and "a star for a day rather than an animal for hire".

In the broadcast the dog is depicted initially as listless and sluggish, having been brought to its knees by 18 years of Tory government.

But the beast is remarkably revitalised by the sight of Tony Blair promising a better Britain from the colourful splendour of his Islington living room. It springs into action, straining at the leash and eventually breaking away, after hearing of Mr Blair's plans to be "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime", and his mantra on educational reforms.

Asked if the use of the bulldog was a joke, a Labour spokesman last night said: "Our view is that the bulldog is a metaphor for the state of Britain because it starts off tired and listless and eventually breaks free thanks to the leadership of Tony Blair. We are using the bulldog to show how Britain can be strong once again."

The bulldog has provided invaluable material for generations of political cartoonists who have portrayed it, cloaked in a Union Jack, as a potent symbol of Britain's strength and imperialism. As Sir Winston Churchill's favourite pet — and with certain physical similarities — it was used to depict Britain during the Blitz.

But its inevitable anti-European associations led to it being used recently by Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party in a cinema advertisement.

Labour's campaign manager, Peter Mandelson, said yesterday: "The Labour Party is the patriotic party. That's why we have used this strong symbol because we believe in Britain and know it can be better."

The bulldog, he added, was "an animal with a strong sense of history and tradition. But like Britain today it is tired and without direction and lacking in purpose. The bulldog is a metaphor for Britain."

Mr Mandelson said the idea for the bulldog originated last autumn at the party conference when Labour "reclaimed the union jack from the Conservative Party on behalf of the country". The bulldog may well make further appearances. "It is a completely New Labour dog," Mr Mandelson said.

'Hypocrisy' outburst by Major

Michael White
Political Editor

JOHN Major last night launched the most personal attack of the 1997 election campaign against Tony Blair, accusing his rival for the premiership of opportunism over Labour policy changes and of shameless hypocrisy in choosing a grant-maintained school for his children.

Repeatedly invoking Mr Blair's remark that "what I want for my children, I want for yours," Mr Major said: "The truth is what he wants for his own children he doesn't want for yours. What he has done for his children he wants to take away from yours ... This isn't a manifesto, it's a shameless contract with hypocrisy."

The contrast between the Prime Minister's calculated outburst in Plymouth and the Labour's leader's speech on education in Birmingham could not have been more stark as exercises in negative and positive strategies.

The Labour leader set out the main principles which would guide the educational priorities of a Labour government along with a familiar checklist of "21 steps to top-class education in the 21st century". Mr Major devoted 16 out of 18 pages of his speech to attacking Mr Blair, the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats who threaten West Country Tory seats he visited yesterday.

"If Labour had a collective grandmother, they'd change her — if they thought there were a vote in it," he said. With Labour's lead still 17 per cent over the Tories and the Lib Dems (49:31:13) according to today's Gallup rolling poll for the Daily Telegraph, ministers have little to lose. Voters dislike negative attacks, but they work.

> What [Blair] wants for his children he doesn't want for yours. It's shameless hypocrisy
> **John Major**

The thrust of Mr Major's attack was that the Labour campaign is "falling apart daily, with policy change, distortion, wobble, explanation examination and relaunch," with Mr Blair allegedly changing his mind yesterday on using the British veto in the EU's fisheries row — "the knee-jerk reaction of a party intellectually at sea."

He boasted of 600,000 Tory nursery vouchers, 70,000 assisted places — both threatened by Labour. He likened the Labour leader to "the man who's chucked a brick through a window and turns up in a clean white overall offering to act as a glazier."

But the crucial twist came when he linked the political and the personal. For his own children Mr Blair had chosen a grant-maintained school of the type Tory policies had created. Labour had opposed and would end if elected — a Catholic school seven miles across London from the Blair family home in Labour-controlled Islington. Labour councils had done nothing for school standards — "except turn the keys in their cars and drive away from a Labour problem to a Tory solution," said Mr Major.

In pressing his case for higher standards, better teaching, and better structures in education Mr Blair said yesterday: "I have no intention of waging war on any schools except failing schools. So far as the existing 160 grammar schools are concerned, as long as parents want them they will stay. GM schools will prosper, church schools will too."

Labour's education spokesman, David Blunkett, challenged ministers on class sizes and standards again yesterday. But Labour drew back at the obvious retaliatory target: except for Tony Newton, all cabinet members, including Mr Major himself, have resorted to private education for their children.

The Lib Dems, who have pledged 1p on income tax to spend on education, did not escape. Mr Major said: "Their party conferences have become a cabaret, a throwback to the 1960s, legalise cannabis, abolish the monarchy, rewrite the national anthem, if they go on like this the Monster Raving Loony Party will sue for copyright."

Even before Mr Major's speech was delivered both the Labour and Lib Dem leadership had appealed for less of the negative slanging match which, they said, was alienating voters — "the politics of the gutter," as Labour's campaign manager, Peter Mandelson, called it.

Leader comment, page 6; The big issue, page 7

ANC spy rumours unsettle leaders

David Beresford
in Johannesburg

A DEGREE of frenzy is developing in the African National Congress over allegations that the South African cabinet is riddled with apartheid-era spies.

Last week the ANC announced it was expelling the head of the party in the Midlands of KwaZulu-Natal, Sifiso Nkabinde, because it had evidence that he had been in the pay of the security forces from 1992.

The allegations triggered a new round of speculation about other apartheid agents in the ANC leadership. Local newspapers reported that several lists of spies were circulating, naming up to five cabinet ministers.

The author of one of the lists, a former state assassin, Joe Mamasela, claims that last week he escaped an ambush by gunmen trying to stop him naming the ministers.

At the weekend, the deputy minister of tourism and the environment, Peter Mokaba, appealed to the ANC leadership to clear him of allegations of spying, which he said had been trumped up by his rivals within the movement.

There are also suspicions of a smear campaign against some ministers by disaffected members of the military, the police and intelligence services.

The ANC has a long record of paranoia where spies are concerned. Internal witch-hunts during the years of exile were responsible for a series of atrocities which blemished its human rights record. There is evidence that the South African security forces fed this paranoia to undermine the liberation struggle.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu's truth commission has been drawn into the controversy, agreeing to demand that security personnel seeking amnesty for human rights abuses during the apartheid struggle disclose the names of informers.

Far-flung British island revolts

Atlantic isle racked by riot as its governor sails into sunset

Angela Wigglesworth
and Ed Vulliamy

THE Foreign Office last night faced a revolt in Britain's far-flung South Atlantic dependency of St Helena after an angry crowd set fire to the island's only police van, the governor departed on "mid-term leave" after being accused of dictatorial tendencies, and the former colony's governing executive council of islanders split.

Two of the council's five members resigned last week in protest against what one, Eric George, called "dictatorial government" by Governor David Smallman. In a ship-to-shore message as he sailed away, Mr Smallman said he saw no crisis and would dissolve the council when he returned in six weeks' time and would supervise elections on July 9.

The police transit van and a bus were attacked and burned out in a riot, according to sources, who said that the crowd responsible were mainly unemployed "and saw no chance of getting work".

One of the most isolated corners of the world and best known as the site of Napoleon's exile, St Helena has for some months been the scene of protests against government cuts and rising unemployment from 7.8 per cent in 1991 to 18 per cent today. Inflation is 10 per cent a year.

Last year, for the first time in memory, there was a riot in Jamestown — the capital and only town — when a mob broke into the governor's office and grabbed him by the tie.

They were protesting against the low rates of unemployment benefit — about £12 per week. A job training scheme initiated in January 1995 allowing islanders to come to Britain for work experience, has procured only 23 placements in two years.

Part of the trouble is spawned by the fact that when the two members of the executive council resigned last week in protest against budget cuts, one of those leading the tie-pulling attack on the governor, an islander called Bobby Robinson, was promptly elected to fill one of the vacant places as head of social services.

However, Mr Smallman refused to ratify his election, said Mr George — and imposed his own appointment.

Mr George said: "The democratic process has been eroded here for some time. There is a lot of tension building up here, which I do not like at all. That is my view and is the general view of the people. There is a constitutional crisis, and the governor has gone on leave."

The protests were prompted by a cut in that part of the £8 million annual grant from London which is allocated by the executive council rather than the Foreign Office. But

turn to page 2, column 6

Poverty is when you can't afford 50p

Imagine what it's like for many children living in the poorest parts of the world. Never to have eaten a decent meal, never to have drunk clean water and never to have had proper medical care.

Yet for 50p a day you can help provide clean water, health care, education and agricultural skills – the things that could improve life not just for one child, but for a whole community.

In return, you'll receive a photo and messages from the child you sponsor. We'll also keep you up-to-date with regular progress reports from our field workers. For so little, can you really not afford to give a child a chance in life?

Please sponsor a child today.

☐Yes, I would like to sponsor a child and enclose my first contribution.
☐£15 (monthly) ☐£180 (yearly)
☐I can't sponsor a child now, but enclose a gift of:
☐£200 ☐£100 ☐£50 ☐£25 ☐£____
☐Please send me further details about sponsoring a child, or call: 01460 61073.
Make cheques/POs payable to ACTIONAID, and send to: ACTIONAID, FREEPOST, BS4958, Chard, Somerset TA20 1BR. 18311
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
Address
Postcode
Tel
ACTIONAID

Inside

Britain
Dublin coalition's embarrassment as escaped triple killer living as a poet in Cork city
3

World News
Soldiers guarding Albanian army depot in Italy's Adriatic harbour panic and appear to have no clear idea about border task
5

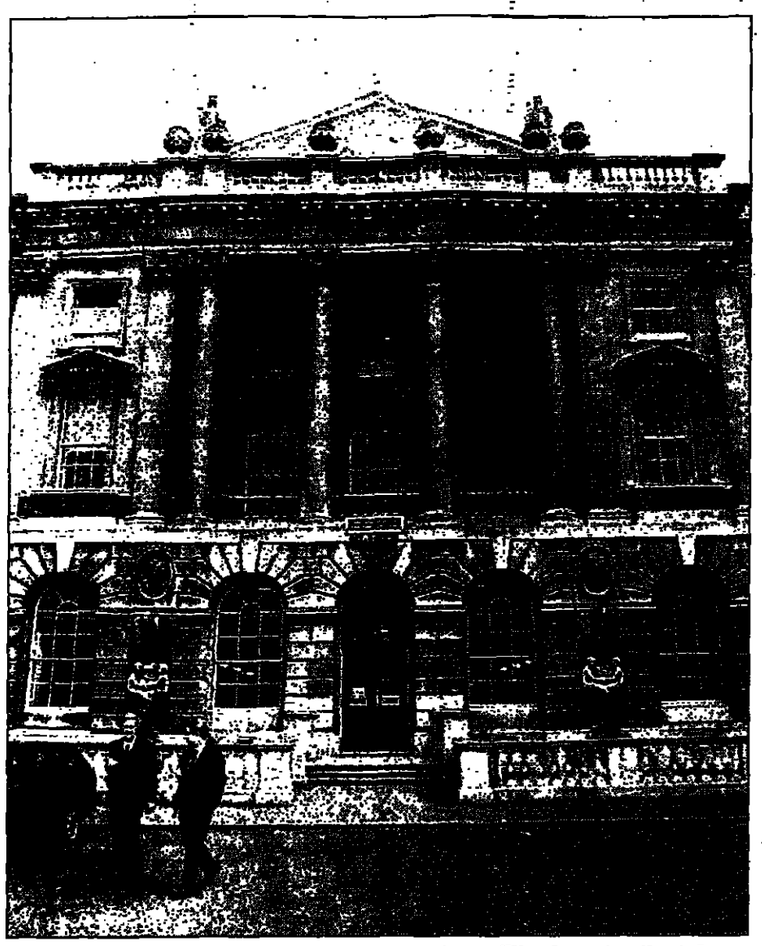
Finance
Figures released today show that the proportion of households without a single wage earner has risen to almost one in five
11

Sport
Michael Atherton, skipper of England's 40 times, will pass Peter May's record of 41 after being reappointed for the summer's campaign
16

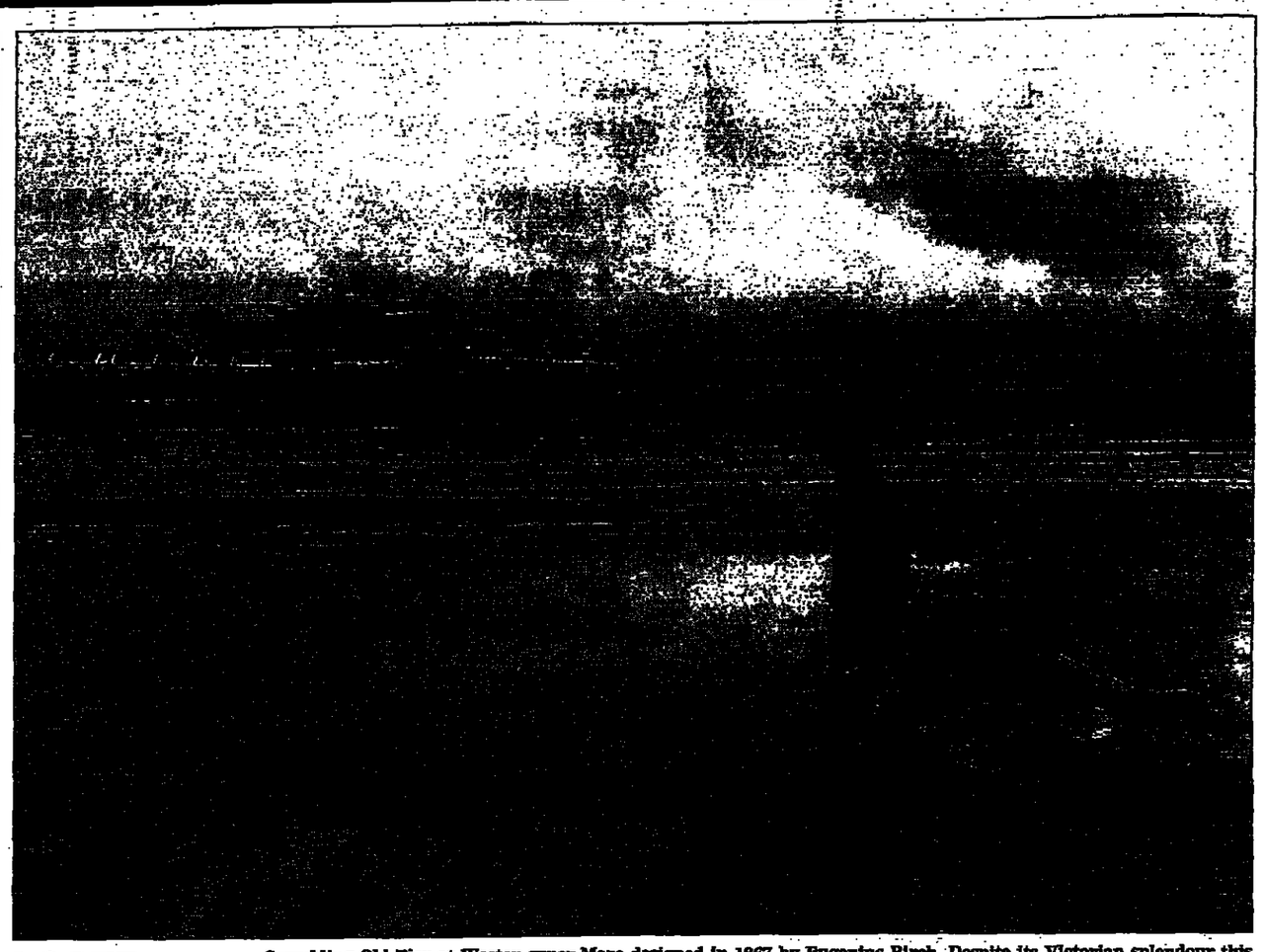
Comment and Letters 8; Obituaries 10
G2
Crossword 15; Weather 16
Radio 16; TV 16

9 770261 307323 16

Who gains in the hand-out



WINNER: Somerset House, to get £18 million for restoration to house the Gilbert Collection of English gold and silver



LOSER: Crumbling Old Pier at Weston-super-Mare designed in 1867 by Eugenius Birch. Despite its Victorian splendour this 'Brunel of English piers' has been barred from receiving a grant until the passing of the Heritage Act PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MORGAN

'London bias' in lottery aid

Two grant boards come under fire

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

BIAS towards London in distribution of National Lottery grants is becoming stronger, and some grant boards are giving more money to rich areas than poor ones, a report maintains today.

The heritage and English arts boards receive most criticism in the National Lottery Yearbook. They are accused of having ignored a government instruction to aim publicity at areas not lodging their fair share of grant bids.

The same boards, plus the Millennium Commission, are also criticised for giving grants to institutions which charge entrance fees, deterring people on low incomes.

Although the Prime Minister has declared that the benefits of the lottery should be available "irrespective of income", the heritage, English arts and millennium boards show "only the slightest concern" for this issue, the authors say.

The yearbook, the most authoritative overview of its kind, is published by the Directory of Social Change, an independent research charity.

It is broadly supportive of the lottery, saying it is achieving most of what the royal commission on gambling, which recommended its establishment, intended.

However, it chastises the Government for "weakly" allowing the addition of scratchcards, for granting parallel concessions to the gambling industry, and for failing to ensure the fair distribution of lottery grants.

Bias towards London in grant-making was even more pronounced last year than in 1996, the report claims. Taking together all grants, London received £62.47 a head, compared with £11.31 for the East Midlands, £12.15 for the Eastern region, and £15.88 for the rest of the South-east.

The charities and sports boards, are praised for taking steps to ensure a more even spread of grants.

Recognising that the heritage and arts boards face more difficulty in helping disadvantaged areas, the report argues that they should therefore make greater effort to do so. "But they have in fact done less."

An analysis in the yearbook of grants to schools by the English arts board shows that 33, worth £9.8 million in total, went to the least disadvantaged half of the country, while 13, worth less than £1 million in total, went to the poorer half.

Theatres (£259 million in grants by the end of February) and museums (£160 million) are shown as the big winners so far. Only 29 grants, each worth more than £10 million, accounted for more than a third of the money distributed last year.

The heritage and English arts boards both insist that measures are in hand to award more smaller grants and to ensure money reaches all parts of the country.

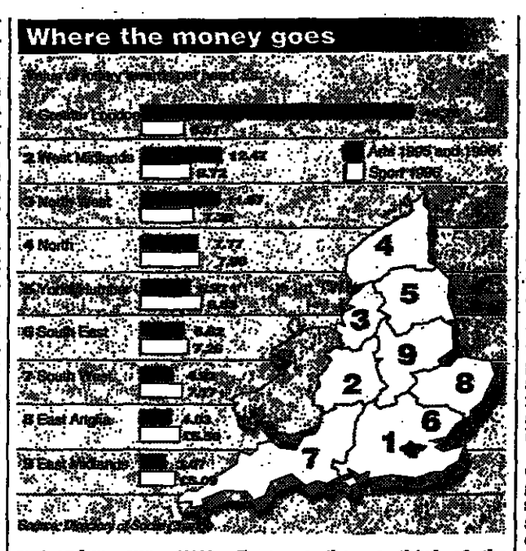
Anthea Case, director of the heritage board, said latest figures showed it was spending below target levels, measured by population, only in the South-east, West Midlands and East Midlands. "It is inevitable that substantial grants will be made to the [London] 'home' of national institutions, which by their very nature attract a huge audience from both home and abroad."

Jeremy Newton, director of the English arts board, maintained it was precluded by government guidelines from soliciting applications or directing money in terms of social need or regional balance.

"We are seriously concerned about the apparent geographical imbalance in schools applications;" he said. "This does not reflect our experience generally."

National Lottery Yearbook and Grant-seekers' Guide; Directory of Social Change, 24 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2DP; £16.95.

Where the money goes



'Push boat out for historic pubs'

David Brindle and Maev Kennedy

THE Heritage Board should be giving grants to preserve pubs rather than buying works of art for museums, the National Lottery Yearbook argues.

The board's concept of heritage is described as "desperately narrow". It is accused of defining heritage importance in terms of official recognition.

"For most people, their heritage is their local church and its grounds, the nearby countryside and its farm buildings, a fine old pub, their town centre, a well-built school, their Victorian public buildings," the authors say.

Such sentiments will find an echo among supporters of the crumbling Old Pier in Weston-super-Mare, Somerset. Although some other piers have won heritage grants, the Old Pier — designed in 1867 by Eugenius Birch, hailed as the Brunel of English piers — has been ineligible because it is owned privately.

By contrast, the heritage board was pleased to find £18 million for the restoration of Somerset House in London to house the Gilbert Collection of English gold and silver.

The board says it will shortly begin consultation on how the new Heritage Act may be applied, undertaking that "public opinion will play an important part in defining which areas of heritage should benefit from public money".

Musical inheritance confronted to great effect

Review

Martin Kettle

Philharmonia/Shostakovich
Royal Festival Hall

IN THE middle of the 20th century the names Shostakovich and Oistrakh mostly meant Dmitri and David, composer and dedicatee respectively of one of the century's most distinctive and eloquent violin concertos.

Dmitri Shostakovich and David Oistrakh are irreplaceable, but their sons Maxim Shostakovich and Igor Oistrakh remain with us, and last night the younger generation (not really the appropriate term for a 59 and a 66-year old) confronted their inheritance to recreate the concerto as part of this all-Shostakovich concert at the Festival Hall.

Recreating the music of the Soviet Union's most important composer is harder than ever in the 1990s. Shostakovich's music comes from an era and a culture which have vanished, and the meaning which it conveyed when musicians such as David Oistrakh played it has now been submerged by what the musicologist Richard Taruskin has rightly called a torrent of romantically revisionary nonsense, which casts Shostakovich as the liberal hero that he never was.

Maxim Shostakovich has always played an important role in countering the simplifications perpetrated against his father, stressing that he was, above all, a great musician.

David Oistrakh's account of the first violin concerto (which he premiered in 1955) is still regarded as definitive, yet Igor's interpretation had a tougher and more contentious personality of its own.

The solo part in this four movement work is formidably challenging, beginning with the long and almost improvisatory nocturne in which Oistrakh senior's lyricism remains unequalled, before reaching its climax in the eloquent stoicism of the third movement passacaglia.

Igor Oistrakh's playing was more fiercely concentrated than his father's, but its physicality was tremendous and his long cadenza, classical in form but infused with the bleak experience of the 20th century, was gripping.

I remember hearing Maxim Shostakovich conduct his father's fifth symphony in this hall 20 years ago, and recall being bowled over by the speed of his interpretation and by the sheer volume that he conjured from the orchestra.

Either I am misremembering the earlier concert or Maxim has changed his view of this much-debated work, because this rendering was one of the slowest I can recall. Though Shostakovich roused the Philharmonia to make a great noise, this time it was the delicacy of their playing which made the impression.

The slow tempos created a great impression of space and reflection, but they also posed formidable challenges for the wind sololsts who carry so much of the essence of this music

But the Philharmonia winds answered every demand which the Shostakoviches placed upon them.

This review appeared in some editions yesterday

British island in revolt

continued from page 1

beneath the economic unrest lies the question of citizenship. The islanders — or "Saints" — are ferociously loyal to the Crown, like their distant neighbours, the Falkland islanders. Portraits of the Queen and Prince Philip adorn the walls of public and private buildings alike.

However, like Hong Kong residents, islanders were stripped of their British citizenship and right of abode by the Nationality Act of 1981. The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, said in a letter to Mr Smallman last month that the Government "certainly has no plans to effect any further changes" to the laws.

However, Saints can join Britain's armed forces. "We can fight and die for Britain, but we can't live there if we want to," said one islander.

In his faxed ship-to-shore message, Mr Smallman said: "I am proceeding to the UK on a leave break. There is no crisis in St Helena, constitutional or otherwise." Mr Smallman could not be contacted yesterday after his maritime message.

A Foreign Office spokeswoman said: "We recognise that there are various problems in St Helena in terms of its isolation and its economic dependency." The spokeswoman had no comment on Mr George's claims.

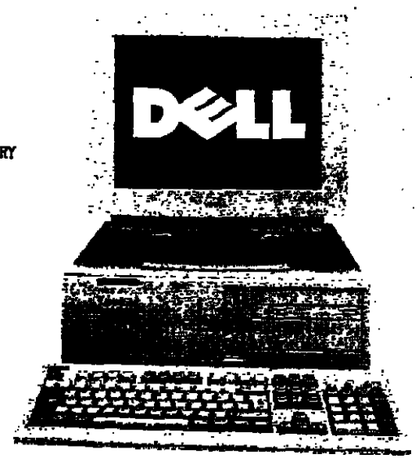
Island file

- ☐ Discovered: May 21, 1502.
- ☐ Area: 47 square miles.
- ☐ Population: 5,644 (estimate, 1990). Mixed, mostly British, Asian and African descent.
- ☐ Last governor to flee the island: Governor Patton in 1807, during a measles epidemic.
- ☐ Napoleon's exile: 1815 to 1821.
- ☐ Other celebrity visitors: Captains Cook and Bligh, and Edmund Halley, who built an observatory to watch Mercury.
- ☐ Current status: British Dependent Territory.

At this price, it's the business.

DELL DIMENSION XPS M166s
- INTEL 166MHz PENTIUM® PROCESSOR WITH MMX™ TECHNOLOGY
- 16Mb SDRAM • 512Kb CACHE
- 2Gb EIDE HARD DRIVE
- STB POWERGRAPH 64 3D PCI GRAPHICS CARD WITH 2Mb VIDEO MEMORY
- 15"COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (13.75"VIEWABLE AREA)
- TWELVE SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE
- MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- INTEGRATED 16-BIT SOUND PLUS ACS90 SPEAKERS
- WINDOWS 95 & MICROSOFT OFFICE PROFESSIONAL 95 (EXCEL, WORD, POWERPOINT, ACCESS)

£1,199 (£1,438.20) incl. delivery & VAT



MMX intel inside pentium® PROCESSOR

You want a PC that works hard for your business? For only £1,199 (£1,438.20 inc. del. & VAT), we're offering a Dell Dimension™ XPS M166s with a Pentium® Processor with MMX™ technology. So it can run between 10% and 20% faster under today's normal business applications. It also includes a powerful 12 Speed CD-ROM Drive and a 2Gb Hard Drive. And we're giving you additional upgrades at outstanding prices (see below to upgrade this system further). But you must hurry. Call the world's leading direct PC manufacturer* today on 01344 724640 and employ a faster PC at a better price.

UPGRADE OPTIONS
Upgrade to AWE 32 sound and ACS290 speakers — Only £100 (£117.50 inc. VAT)
Add a 33.6 Internal Modem — Only £99 (£116.33 inc. VAT)
(CALL NOW FOR DETAILS OF OFFICE 97 UPGRADES.)

DELL
TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE.
01344 724640
Between 8am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Sat.
http://www.dell.com/uk

Dell and the Dell logo are registered trademarks and Dell Dimension is a trademark of Dell Computer Corporation. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Windows, Office Professional 95 and the Windows logo are registered trademarks of the Microsoft Corporation. Delivery at £25 (£29.37 incl VAT) per system. Finance is available subject to status. Full details available on request. Prices correct at date of publication. The photographed product may not always match the specifications in this advert. Prices quoted refer to specification descriptions only. The prices listed reflect the information available at the time of going to press. Prices change frequently. All prices and specifications are subject to change without prior notice or obligation. Offer supplied with Windows 95. Dell mouse and keyboard included. Dell Computer Corporation Ltd, Millbanke House, Western Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1RD. Offer available for a limited period only.

Ridings pupils dance out the anger

Amelia Hill and David Ward

PUPILS from the Ridings School in Halifax yesterday danced their angry reply to the media rat-pack which last autumn dubbed their comprehensive "the school from hell".

An eight-minute dance drama entered in a national competition ends with chastened members of a television crew handing over their cameras and fluffy microphones, while children reach for the sky and sing songs by Labi Siffre and Chris Rea.

The Ridings hit the headlines last September when a teaching union said some pupils were unteachable and discipline almost collapsed, prompting a succession of horror stories, the fury of Education Secretary Gillian Shephard, and the arrival of the inspection cavalry and a new headteacher.

The press camped on the school's doorstep, and Calderdale council temporarily closed it.

"It was awful," said Jade Thickett, aged 14, before she went on stage at St George's Hall, Bradford. "Why were we put through all that when we didn't do anything wrong? This performance means we can show everyone how good we are when we can work together."

Zoe Sutton, aged 12, said: "The press lied about us, and we're still angry. People used to walk away from us in the street when they heard what school we went to. When I went for a cleaning job in a shop, they wouldn't have me when they knew I came from the Ridings."

The dance, in front of a set showing what became the most notorious school steps in Britain, expresses pupils' initial fury and frustration and then their realisation that they can unite to create a new reputation for themselves and their school.

In one scene a pirouetting TV reporter with shades, shell suit and a fistful of banknotes, bribes children to dish the dirt. Behind him, headlines proclaim "School from hell" and "Worst in Britain".

Chantelle Beedsworth, aged 13, saw photographers hiding in trees and training lenses on the school from an old people's home. "Every time we had lessons, we had to close the curtains," she said.

"It was a bad situation made worse by the actions of the media," said Chief Inspector Mark Pontin of Hampshire Police, who brought the drama idea from Australia. "It could have been resolved if children hadn't been encouraged to behave badly by the cameras."

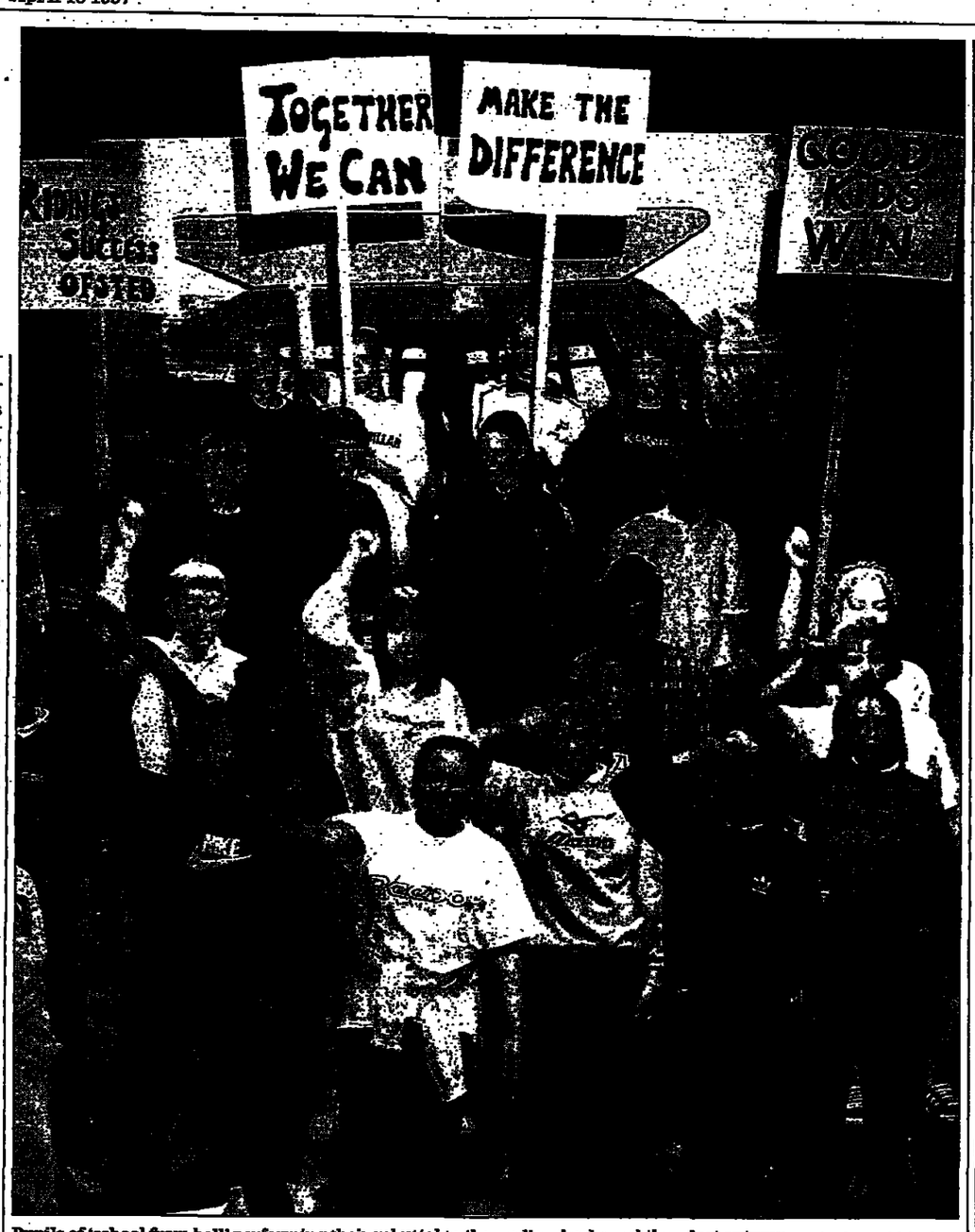
On a Churchill Fellowship visit to Australia, Mr Pontin saw an innovative drama project devised to help in the fight against drugs. Gordon Dickson, Ridings governor and local community police officer, realised it could be used to show the school in a positive light.

Today the Ridings team will learn whether they will go forward to the northern finals of the Pulse Rock Challenge.

Ian Calvert, head of English, confirmed that pupils had taken a lot of stick. "We had some troublemakers, but many were hard-working children who wanted to put the record straight."

The project had helped to restore their self-respect. "It's an opportunity for them to show that they are normal kids doing their best."

Over the footlights, pupils debated whether their entry would win. "It doesn't matter," said one of the 38 performers and eight stage crew. "We are going up in the world."



Pupils of 'school from hell' performing their rebuttal to the media who dogged them last autumn PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE

Term of trial

Ridings timetable:

August 25: Sarah Taylor, aged 13, expelled for violence against a teacher
September 1: Sarah reinstated; teachers threaten to walk out
September 3: Sarah returns to school; 31 NAS/UWT members vote not to teach her
October 22: Head Karen Stansfield resigns after two years at the school
October 23: Education Secretary Gillian Shephard demands full report
October 25: NAS/UWT members threaten to strike if 60 pupils are not excluded
October 28: Mrs Shephard sends in inspectors
October 29: Peter Clark appointed as temporary head
November 1: Calderdale council shuts the school following reports of assaults on teachers, one of them witnessed by the inspectors
November 5: Mr Clark expels 12 pupils and suspends 23
November 6: The school is given three weeks to sort out problems of indiscipline and under-achievement or face a Government takeover
December 17: Ofsted inspectors declare the school to be failing

Police seek to extradite Broadmoor escaper

Irish refuse bail to English triple killer

David Sharrock: Ireland Correspondent

A TRIPLE killer and Broadmoor escapee who has been living openly in Cork, south-west Ireland, for more than two years was yesterday refused bail by a Dublin court when police in England served an extradition warrant against him.

Allan Patrick Reeve, aged 49, was arrested on April 3 at the Art Hive, headquarters of the Cork Women's Poetry Circle, by the garda following enquiries by Thames Valley police, who have been seeking him since 1992 over his escape from Broadmoor 11 years earlier.

Reeve, originally from Colchester, Essex, killed a friend in 1964 when he was 15. He had been in trouble since the age of 10, once tried to shoot his father, and murdered 15-year-old Roger Jackson while on the run from Borstal.

Sent to Broadmoor, he killed fellow patient Billy Doyle at the age of 19. Nobody knew how Doyle, 22, had died until Reeve confessed.

At the age of 32, in 1981, he escaped from Broadmoor after claiming he was sane and gaining a sociology degree. He scaled two walls and made off in a car with Pat Ford, a Reading woman he had become engaged to during hospital visits.

The couple fled to Holland where they lived by stealing. Exactly a year after escaping, Reeve shot a 27-year-old policeman dead in an armed raid on an Amsterdam offlicence. A second police officer almost died.

While on remand, he married Ms Ford in jail.

After being convicted of manslaughter, Reeve served 10 years in a Dutch prison, where he qualified as a lawyer and became a doctor of political psychology. Released in 1992, he fled once more as British and Dutch authorities wrangled over extradition.

Reeve, who has been living in Ireland for more than two years, told the Irish High Court in Dublin that he intended to wed next month. His partner, Anne Murphy, who has three children — one of whom is Reeve's — confirmed they planned to marry in Cork on May 10. But Mr Justice Peter Carney said Reeve had a history of absconding and dismissed his bail application.

> 'He escaped after claiming he was sane and gaining a sociology degree'

Afterwards Reeve's counsel, Charles Corcoran, indicated the case would probably be taken to the Supreme Court.

Garda detective sergeant Martin O'Reilly said Reeve lived in Cork and had a job there, acquired through a government employment scheme. The garda received extradition warrants from Britain in February and Reeve was arrested on April 3.

Detective Sergeant Derek Edmondson of Thames Valley police said it was learned that Reeve was in Ireland in 1995. However, there had been delays in preparing extradition warrants.

He agreed that Reeve had not attempted to hide his identity while in Ireland.

Reeve told the court he left Broadmoor in 1981 after three separate recommendations from doctors and psychologists for his release were turned down by the Home Office.

He claimed his continued detention in the hospital would have been in breach of the European Human Rights Convention, but agreed: "I absconded when I should have *remained in custody.*"

Friends in Cork knew Reeve only as Henry, a book editor who wrote poetry and always dressed in black.

Two months ago his son, Alan, was born and he spent much of his time looking after the baby.

He moved to Cork in 1995. He has a brother there but did not live with him. When he became engaged to Ms Murphy six months ago, they threw a party in the Roundy House pub.

The proprietor, Dave Whitty, said: "They were very happy together and he seemed to be a fine person. He was very well educated and was able to talk about anything."

Reeve told him he had been a journalist but was now editing books, and he explained missing years of his life by saying he spent time doing voluntary work in Africa.

Allan Reeve arrested in the Netherlands after shooting two Dutch policemen in 1982

Fergy is back in the headlines once more

But this time the impecunious royal is helping to write them, reports **Ian Katz** in New York

THE Duchess of York, helicopter pilot, corporate pitchwoman and semi-detached royal, today embarked on a new career as a newspaper columnist with a moving account of a journey to her stepfather's Argentinian roots and an admiring nod to another celebrity mother.

"With Madonna herself three rows away from me, I could hardly have found the London première of Evita anything but exciting," the impecunious duchess confides at the *start of her first* weekly column for the New York Times Syndicate.

In the newspaper business a column describing an event which took place almost four months earlier could easily be derided as "tired", but the duchess's new bosses seem more than happy with her timeless reflections.

"It seems real real [sic]," said Cristi Kempf, features editor of the Chicago Sun-Times, which will run the duchess's bons mots tomorrow. "I bought the Hello magazine which had her as a fashion columnist, and I was like 'Uh, oh, but this is nice'."

Although Ms Ferguson's columns will not actually be published in the New York Times, she joins such figures as Mikhail Gorbachev and Bill Gates in the stable of celebrities-turned-scribes marketed by the paper's syndication service.

In addition to the Chicago Sun-Times, the column has been bought by the Denver Post and newspapers in Australia, Chile, Finland, Portugal, Mexico, South Africa and Italy, according to John Stickney, the syndicate's marketing manager.

"It's the kind of world sale we had hoped for," Mr Stickney said. "We knew that we had a world individual here like Bill Gates."

At least three British papers were interested in purchasing rights to the column, Mr Stickney added.

The duchess's weekly columns, for which she will reportedly receive $160,000 *(£100,000) a year*, will mostly be "personal essays", although she will occasionally produce "Ask the Duchess" columns in response to questions submitted by readers.

The New York Times Syndicate was unconcerned by Ms Ferguson's lack of journalistic experience, Mr Stickney said. "We thought maybe if she can fly a helicopter she can fly a column."

In case her expertise with helicopters is not enough, the duchess can fall back on Jeff Coplon, the New York-based writer who ghosted her autobiography — although Mr Stickney was discreet about the creative process from which Ms Ferguson's columns emerge.

Ms Kempf said her paper decided to buy the column after Ms Ferguson visited Chicago as a spokeswoman for Weight Watchers.

Sarah Ferguson: now a newspaper columnist

> 'With Madonna herself three rows away from me, I could hardly have found the London première of Evita anything but exciting'
>
> **Duchess of York**

"It seems like she wears her heart on her sleeve and people identify with that," Ms Kempf said. "When she was here she was talking about her fat butt and stuff. People like that."

The duchess's first column relates how a scene in Evita inspired her to visit Eva Perón's birthplace in Argentina.

"Argentina's my second home," she writes. "My mother still lives there. A part of me, perhaps the best part, resides there as well."

She also describes an emotional visit to the grave of her stepfather, Héctor Barrantes.

"He wasn't a man who'd want you to cry for him. He'd chose a laugh instead, a hearty *abrazo* — and a breakneck ride across the pampas on a willing horse."

Number of centenarians to rise tenfold by 2031

Chris Mihill: Medical Correspondent

THE age of the 120-year-old is just around the corner, with blue or green-eyed women having the greatest chance of reaching advanced old age, researchers say today.

The number of centenarians has been growing at the rate of 7 per cent a year since 1950 and a tenfold increase is expected in England and Wales by 2031.

But news from France suggests that it is those with blue and green eyes who are more likely to receive that coveted telegram for reaching 100 from Buckingham Palace. No scientific explanation has yet been given for this finding.

"A very curious and unexpected find in the French survey was that the proportion of centenarians with blue, blue-grey or green eyes was much higher than in the population as a whole," says a report setting out the findings.

It says that aside from a rise in overall numbers, the death rate amongst the very old is decreasing, and the maximum age in England and Wales is expected to increase beyond the present 115 to 119.

The Office for National Statistics' *report on the health of* adults in Britain from 1841 to 1994, which shows a huge increase in life expectancy over this period, says this is set to continue into the next century.

The report says that improvements in sanitation, public housing, vaccination and medical treatment have virtually eliminated infectious diseases as a major cause of death. Significant additional increases in average life expectancy could be expected if cancers and injuries could be reduced.

The report points out that in 1841 life expectancy at birth was 41 years for men and 43 for women. By 1991, life expectancy for men was 73 and for women 79.

"Careful analysis of international data shows that the upper tail of the age-distribution of deaths has been moving higher for more than a century, suggesting there may be no limits to human longevity," says the report.

A special chapter on centenarians, written by Roger Thatcher, former Registrar-General *and director of the* Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, says the number of people over 100 is expected to increase from 4,400 in 1991 to 45,000 by 2031.

Mr Thatcher states: "It is reasonable to expect the maximum recorded age for women in England and Wales, at present 115, will reach at least 118 or 119, or possibly even more.

"In France, where the expectation of life is higher, the age of 121 has already been attained."

Mr Thatcher says that women centenarians outnumber men by seven to one, but in England and Wales there has been no systematic survey of their health.

The Health of Adult Britain 1841–1994, edited by John Charlton and Mike Murphy, Office for National Statistics, Stationery Office; £60.

Steel doesn't grow on trees.

Think Wood

The Timber Trade Federation, 26-27 Oxendon Street, London SW1Y 4EL
http://www.ttf.co.uk

Authority questions whether image of semi-naked model was appropriate for double-glazing firm

Complaints rise against sexist adverts

Andrew Culf on watchdog's report

COMPLAINTS about the sexist portrayal of women in advertisements doubled over the past year, the industry's watchdog reported today.

Publication of the Advertising Standards Authority's annual report — revealing that 720 advertisements were withdrawn in 1996 — coincided with a ruling branding the poster that launched pin-up Melinda Messenger's career as offensive.

The model, billed by the Sun as the "Page 3 girl for the thrillennium", had featured on a poster for a Gloucester-based double-glazing firm.

It showed a scantily-clad Ms Messenger looking through a window. The slogan said "Class behind glass", and the text added: "Buy a window this week and we'll give you one free".

Four complainants said the photograph and sexual innuendo were offensive and the authority ruled it was likely to cause serious or widespread offence.

An authority spokesman said: "We had to ask whether the image of a semi-naked woman was appropriate for a double-glazing firm."

Richard Gosd, marketing manager for Glevum Windows, whose sales rose by 25 per cent, said: "The humour was more like the Carry On films than pornography."

Ms Messenger's father Terry said: "If that picture was in a frame it would be considered beautiful art."

Yvonne Paul, Ms Messenger's agent, said: "It is only a girl in underwear and if people are offended by that, there is not much we can do. It is no worse than the Wonderbra ads."

The authority's annual report showed complaints about the portrayal of women increased from 400 to 846. More than a third were about a Gossard Glossies lingerie campaign, many inspired by a protest article by Lynda Lee Potter in the Daily Mail.

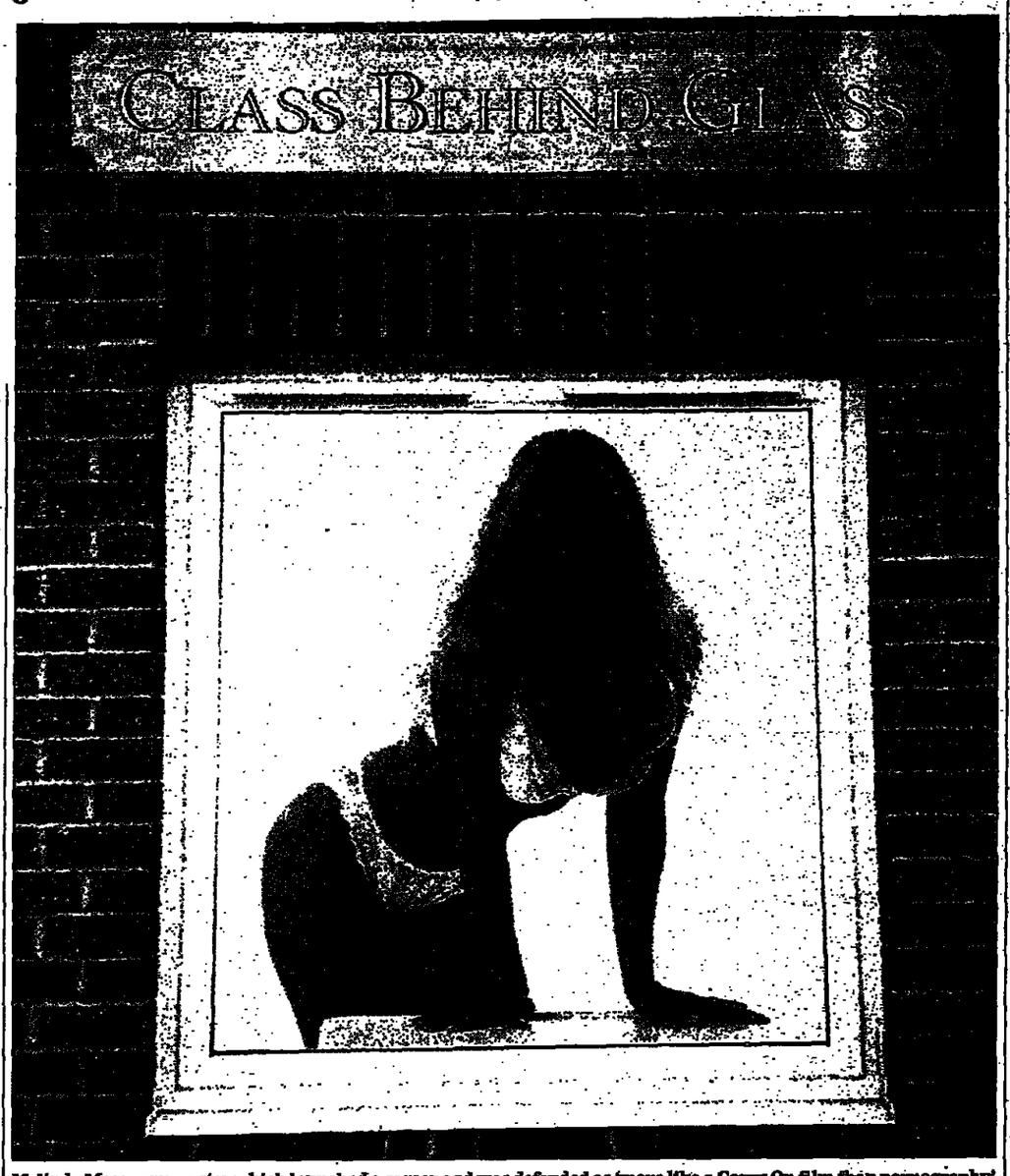
The Gossard complaints were rejected — the authority said it was acceptable "in the context of the advertised product" — but 17 advertisements were withdrawn for offensive portrayal of women.

The authority said the increase in complaints was unwelcome and advertisers needed to be more sensitive to public opinion.

Total complaints fell 6 per cent in 1996 to 12,055. A total of 720 were withdrawn, an increase of 40 per cent on the 1995 figure of 515, but fewer than the 1992 record of 743.

Complaints about taste and decency fell by 23 per cent, while those about violent imagery rose by 25 per cent in the wake of the stabbing of headteacher Philip Lawrence and the Dunblane massacre.

The authority said its research showed more than 75 per cent of the public thought it an effective regulator and fewer than one in seven favoured regulation by a government body. There was a high compliance rate by advertisers.



Melinda Messenger poster which launched a career and was defended as 'more like a Carry On film than pornography'

Glossard ad: received 321 complaints but was not criticised

Subjects of top 10 complaints

1 **Gossard:** 321 complaints — not upheld.
Woman lying in long grass, wearing translucent black bra and briefs. Slogan: "Who said a woman can't get pleasure from something soft."
2 **Conservative Party:** 167 complaints — partly upheld.
New Labour, New Danger poster featuring Tony Blair with demonic-looking eyes.
3 **Nissan:** 126 complaints — upheld.
Posters for Terrano Outlander four-wheel drive, headlined "4x4 play", with vehicle superimposed on woman's naked body decorated to simulate hilly terrain.
4 **Holsten:** 94 complaints — upheld.
Posters featuring a bottle of Holsten Pils and the line: "Poncy arsed advertising? Get real!"
5 **Benetton:** 87 complaints — partly upheld.
Three disembodied hearts, with the words white, yellow and black superimposed.
6 **Virgin Interactive:** 60 complaints — upheld.
Computer game poster featuring a white bathtub filled with blood that had spilled on to the floor, with the words: "Resident evil."
7 **Fila:** 58 complaints — not upheld.
Running shoes poster, with headline: "The best F in shoes."
8= **Philip Morris Europe SA:** 54 complaints — partly upheld.
Series of press advertisements comparing risks of contracting lung cancer from passive smoking with eating biscuits and drinking chlorinated water.
8= **A G Barr:** 54 complaints — not upheld.
Poster for a soft drink showing woman kissing a man with the slogan: "If I suck hard enough, maybe I can get my Irn-Bru back."
10 **Royal National Institute for the Blind:** 52 complaints — not upheld.
Advertisement showing view through woman's eyes as she lay on her back, awaiting gynaecological examination; highlighting service enabling blind people to read private information in private.

News in brief

Parents 'did not know' of op risks

DOCTORS at Harefield hospital were so convinced that a baby boy should have a heart transplant that they failed to tell his parents of the risk that he might suffer irreversible brain damage, the High Court heard yesterday.

Matthew Poynter, aged 16 months, was given a new heart at the west London hospital, in December 1987. But the profound brain damage suffered in the process had rendered him "very, very significantly disabled", said Simeon Maskrey QC, for his parents, Kevin and Linda Poynter, who are suing Hillingdon health authority for damages.

The Poynters, from Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, say that if they had been told of the risks, they would have let their son die. The health authority argues that they were warned.

The hearing continues.

Sex assault solicitor jailed

A SOLICITOR who indecently assaulted four girls he tutored as a part-time music teacher was yesterday jailed for 15 months.

Simon Jackson put his hands under the clothing of the girls, aged between 11 and 15, supposedly to help their breathing techniques, Bristol crown court heard.

Jackson, aged 42, from Taunton, Somerset, admitted four specimen counts of indecent assaults on girls under 16 between January 1988 and January 1992.

Comedy duo separate

COMEDIANS Paul Merton and Caroline Quentin have split, it was disclosed last night. A statement said: "Paul and Caroline have separated amicably. There is no one else involved."

New charity role for Camilla

CAMILLA Parker Bowles (right) took a first step into the public arena yesterday, with the release of a specially-taken photograph to mark the announcement of a new official charity role as patron of the National Osteoporosis Society. The portrait of the woman in the life of the Prince of Wales was taken by society photographer Sir Geoffrey Shakerley, who is married to a cousin of the Queen. Mrs Parker Bowles's mother and grandmother both died of osteoporosis.

Batsmen hit for six

BATSMEN at a Derbyshire village cricket club have been told not to hit sixes in the direction of six newly built houses near their ground after a ball soared out of the ground, smashed through a patio window and damaged a television set.

John Harrison, chairman of Melbourne Town, said that South Derbyshire district council allowed developers to build the homes three years ago without stipulating that they put up a protective fence. "Cricket has been played on the site for 77 years. If you buy a house next to a cricket ground it's not unreasonable to expect that from time to time the ball may end up on your property." Only one of the 16,000 deliveries bowled last year had caused any problems.

Correction

IN OUR report of February 12 on the Old Bailey trial of eight men charged with conspiring to cause explosions, we stated that Semtex explosive had been found in raids on premises in London. In fact, no explosives of any kind were found. We apologise for the error.

PC 'had no need to fire'

Street confrontation with car thief described at murder trial

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

AN ARMED policeman shot and fatally wounded a man in a stolen car as he tried to escape, an Old Bailey jury heard yesterday. The officer had other options open to him and need not have drawn his gun, it was said.

PC Patrick Hodgson, aged 49, was part of an armed response team that had seen a stolen car in Barnes, south west London, in February last year, John Bevan QC, prosecuting, told the jury. As the driver of the car, David Ewin, tried to escape, PC Hodgson drew his 9mm handgun and fired twice. Mr Ewin died in hospital.

PC Hodgson denies murdering Mr Ewin. He told officers after the shooting that he had no option but to fire because his life and those of members of the public were at risk.

But the court was told that PC Hodgson had other options available and he could have treated the incident as a stolen car case. The jury was also told that PC Hodgson stood trial last December, but the case was halted because of a difficulty which was not the fault of the prosecution, defence or judge.

The incident started when Mr Ewin ran out of a shop where he had been buying a can of beer as PC Hodgson and his colleagues arrived.

"It was a normal midday street scene which was suddenly transformed into violent action, which had at the centre David Ewin and PC Hodgson," said Mr Bevan.

Mr Ewin drove the stolen Toyota backwards and forwards in a frantic attempt to escape. PC Hodgson and a colleague got out of their police car and PC Hodgson tried to grab Mr Ewin.

"PC Hodgson had hold of the driver round the neck and was holding his gun in his right hand," said Mr Bevan. "He was in danger of being squashed between the stolen Toyota and the police car. He was shouting 'Armed police'."

It was accepted that at one point PC Hodgson was in danger as the car shunted backwards and forwards, Mr Bevan said. He then moved to the other side of the car and took up a crouched firing position. There were two shots.

A blood test on the dead man showed he had one-and-a-half times the driving limit of alcohol in his blood, had used cannabis and probably taken heroin, said Mr Bevan.

He said it was not reasonable to draw a gun to arrest a man driving a stolen car. "There were safer alternatives. If shooting Ewin was the only option, that is tantamount to saying any car thief, driving recklessly, may be reasonably shot dead."

A witness, Peter Core, told the court that initially PC Hodgson would have been crushed by the car if he had not jumped out of the way. It was revving up "like a Grand Prix car". He said that PC Hodgson was not in danger when he was on the pavement and drew his gun.

The case continues.

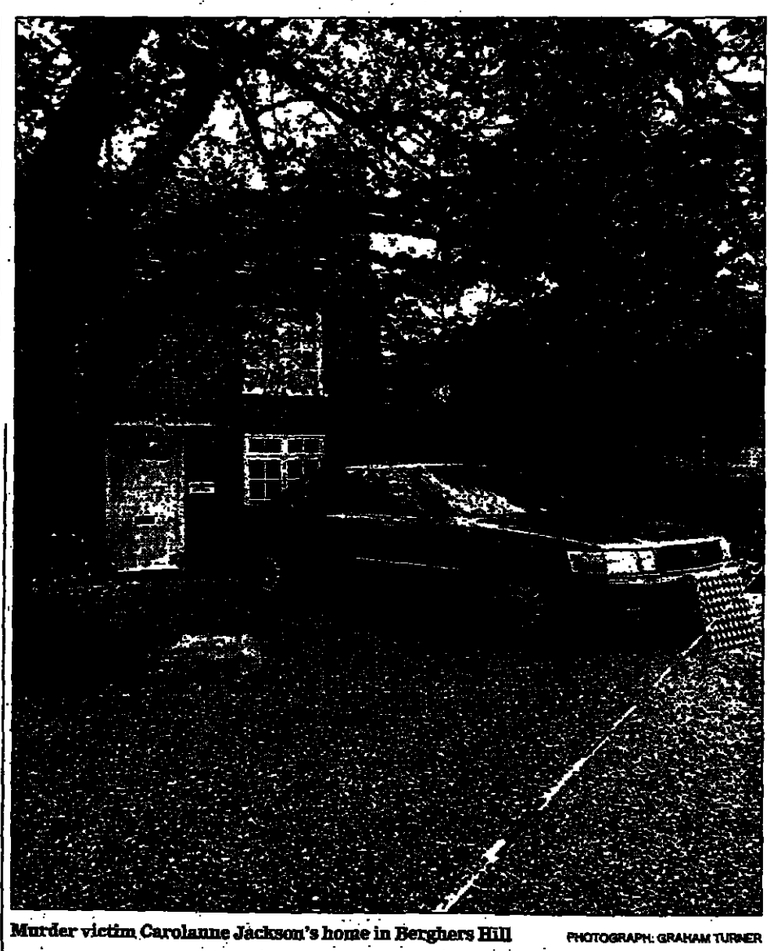
David Ewin: shot twice as he sat in stolen car

PC Patrick Hodgson: drew gun after leaping clear

Antiques dealer complained of being followed a number of times

Stalker may have killed woman

Carolanne Jackson, found dead in her kitchen



Murder victim Carolanne Jackson's home in Berghers Hill PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Alison Daniels

A DISABLED antiques dealer found tied and battered in her home in a Buckinghamshire village at the weekend may have been killed by a stalker, it emerged yesterday.

Carolanne Jackson's body was found in the kitchen of her home in the hamlet of Berghers Hill, near High Wycombe, by a friend on Sunday morning.

She had been struck on the head with a blunt object and asphyxiated. Police believe her attacker may have been trying to force her to reveal details of the lock to a safe in her home.

They would not confirm if the safe had been opened but said a Rolex watch was stolen from Ms Jackson's wrist, along with other items of jewellery.

At a press conference in Maidenhead, Thames Valley police yesterday revealed how Ms Jackson, aged 50, who was not married and lived alone, had complained of being followed on a number of occasions.

In February she had been followed in her car and had later seen a man in the garden of her home.

The incident had left her badly shaken and she had reported it to police. Despite a search by tracker dogs no trace of the stalker was found.

Ms Jackson, who ran a successful antique jewellery business from home, had also been burgled last year. Her house was heavily alarmed and she had sought advice on security.

She had lived in the hamlet for several years and conducted most of her business at trade and craft fairs.

Detective Superintendent Alan Partridge said her last known movements were on Friday night.

She had returned home from a short break abroad and phoned a friend to say she was back.

It is not clear if she made the call from her house or a mobile in her car.

Mr Partridge said her attacker or attackers had probably followed her into her house while she unloaded the car. It was possible they were waiting for her and had been in the area for days.

Mr Partridge said Ms Jackson was particularly vulnerable — she had difficulty walking and had suffered ill health for most of her life.

"It is my firm suspicion that regrettably Ms Jackson had been targeted by someone who knew what sort of trade she was in.

"Someone suspected she might have items at her home which would be of value."

While police sealed off the road leading to Ms Jackson's home and questioned neighbours, her elderly parents, Stan and Annabel Jackson, who live in Maidenhead, were too distraught to talk about their only daughter's death.

Mr Partridge added the murder bore some resemblance to the killing of Janet Brown, aged 51, exactly two years ago in Radnage, Buckinghamshire, although the killings were not being linked.

The medical researcher was battered about the head and was found naked and handcuffed in her farmhouse.

Her murder remains unsolved.

Tuscans aim to slap trade mark on their landscape

Clare Longrigg

THE vineyards, terracotta roofs and medieval towers of Tuscany have featured in films such as Merchant-Ivory's Room with a View and Bertolucci's Stealing Beauty. Olive oil, pasta and wine labels are stamped with the region's opulent images. It has even given its name to a property band: the second homes of English intelligentsia in Chiantishire.

But locals are tired of this piracy: they feel their landscape has been overused.

Councillors in the regional agricultural department have drafted a law to copyright the landscape, to prevent the use of Tuscany's cypress trees and olive groves to sell products that have nothing to do with the region.

Moreno Periccioli, head of the department, said the landscape was crafted by the hard work of Tuscans' ancestors, and it was today's generation that should reap the reward. "The time has come for this quality to be protected and transformed into a source of revenue."

Once the proposal became law, the copyright would reside with the regional authority. Anyone using recognisable images of Tuscany to advertise products from elsewhere would face a heavy fine.

One potential target would be Mulino Bianco, a brand of biscuit which features a mill near Siena in its marketing. The manufacturer would have to prove that its products had a legitimate Tuscan provenance.

If the move is successful, it may catch on in the Scottish Highlands or Constable country. David Gibbins, a London solicitor who specialises in intellectual property, said: "There have been cases like this, but never with visual images. It is common for someone to try to monopolise the denomination of origin, such as sherry or champagne.

"New trademark rules have expanded the class of things you can register — for example, Coca-Cola has copyrighted the shape of the bottle. A Tuscan wine grower could register a photograph of Tuscany, but it would have to be a specific picture. He couldn't say: 'My trademark is any view of Tuscany'."

Care workers overturn pay cut of £50

Geoffrey Gibbs

RESIDENTIAL care workers who were sacked and re-employed on lower wages were celebrating yesterday after an industrial tribunal ordered that they should return to their old pay levels.

The Truro tribunal ruled that the workers were unfairly dismissed when Cornwall county council set up a charitable company, Cornwall Care, to run its care homes after losses were projected to rise to £3 million.

Pay for the 620 staff was cut by up to £50 a week, prompting 249 of them to bring the case. Their union, Unison, said the ruling would stop employers sacking people at will.

James Robinson, chairman of Cornwall Care, said the homes were now in jeopardy.

Italians like the new look of cool Britannia

ON US

In the second in a series on European views of Britain as the general election nears, **John Hooper** in Rome finds attitudes are changing

IF THERE is one thing Italians like, it is to be abreast of fashion. So when Newsweek last year declared London the world's coolest city, it had a huge impact in Italy.

The average Italian does not, of course, read American news magazines. But Italian journalists do, and the effect of Newsweek's discovery was to inspire a succession of reports challenging the views many Italians held about Britain and the British. The most extensive article appeared in right-of-centre current affairs weekly Panorama.

"Even before Newsweek put London on its cover, I had been struck by the fact that so many people who happened to go there came back saying they found the city bubbling with cultural vitality and intellectual fervour," says Panorama's co-editor, Pierluigi Battista.

"This seemed to be at odds with what the Italian media had been saying for years, which was that Britain had been ruined by Thatcherism. What we set out to do was to explore that apparent contradiction."

The result was a 50-page pull-out hailing London as resembling a "liberated, modern woman". It even managed to find glowing words to say about the food: "The city of squalid fish and chips becomes the gourmet's capital."

It is hard to exaggerate how much of a departure this represents. Italian attitudes towards the British have always been ambivalent. Admiration for British style (nowhere do you see as many Burberrys or Barbours) is offset by scant interest in British culture (nowhere do you see as few British television productions). And there is a passionate resentment of what is perceived as British condescension.

It may come as a surprise to English readers, but England v Italy football internationals are viewed by Italian fans as needle matches. This is a phenomenon which long pre-dates 1985's Heysel tragedy, when 38 people died after crowd trouble at the European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus. "When it comes to football games," wrote one of the contributors to Panorama's supplement, "we will cheer on anyone, including Nigeria, against perfidious Albion."

Against this background, it is easier to understand the psychological impact of *il sorpasso*, "the overtaking". In 1987, taking into account the hidden economy, the national statistical office, Istat, announced that Italy's GDP per capita was higher than Britain's.

Until very recently, comment on Britain tended to dwell on the theme of a faded imperial power. Italians were generally unimpressed by the changes wrought under Margaret Thatcher. Her accentuation of the confrontational elements in Britain's economic and political life were at odds with Italy's collaborative traditions. There was a bout of energetic privatisation in the early 1990s, but the pace of state asset sales has since dropped off.

> 'We will cheer on anyone, including Nigeria, against perfidious Albion'

Now that the supposedly clapped-out British lion is showing disconcerting signs of vigour and vitality, attitudes are changing. At the level of the man in the street, or rather on the terraces, it is particularly painful that British football clubs are in a position to hand-pick Italian stars like Gianluca Vialli when it used to be the other way around. "You're the rich ones now," concludes Massimo Bianco, a Roman librarian and Lazio supporter.

Italy is in the grip of self-doubt. The political institutions and economic methods which helped it to prosper for half a century are in crisis. A founder member of the (then) European Economic Community, it faces what most Italians regard as the humiliating prospect of being excluded from the first stage of European economic and monetary union.

Martino Dolfini, who works for a bank in Milan, reckons this may be a further reason why Italians are having a re-think about Britain: their experience and perceptions of the European Union are drawing closer to those of the British.

This year, taxpayers will be made to pay a special "Euro-tax" to help close the budget deficit. Yet there have been repeated leaks to the effect that the German government, or German bankers, or both, are unwilling to see the Italians in at any cost.

"For the first time, we are discovering that going into Europe can be costly," says Mr Dolfini. "What is more, the blame for the situation we find ourselves in is being laid at the door of the Germans."

Next: View from the Low Countries

Uncertain fate for Albanian mission

Julian Borger in Durres

TROOPSHIPS are due to arrive off the Albanian coast today, bringing the main contingent of an Italian-led force aimed at restoring public order and helping to deliver humanitarian aid.

But the soldiers appear to be confused about how they will carry out the task, and are deeply suspicious of their host, President Sali Berisha, according to officials here.

Officers already in Albania as part of the advance guard believe the biggest threat to their safety will come from gangs loyal to the president which may engineer clashes to try to put off the June elections that Mr Berisha is expected to lose.

While politicians have promised great things from the 6,000-strong multinational force, very little groundwork has been laid for its arrival.

The troops (from Italy, France, Spain, Greece, Turkey, Romania, Denmark and Austria) have vague orders to set up a "calming presence" and to avoid direct involvement in aid delivery. "It is not for us a humanitarian mission. We cannot be an [aid organisation], but our presence can deter aggressive actions against [them]," said Major Hervé Gourmelon, of the French contingent, in Durres.

There has been no co-ordination between the force commanders and the humanitarian organisations whose shipments they are meant to protect. According to aid officials, the arrival of the first bulk consignment, 420 tonnes of grain and beans, has been delayed by more than 10 days, principally because the main port at Durres will be clogged with troop carriers.

The World Food Programme (WFP), which organised the shipment, said it had intended to distribute the food without military support as relative calm has returned to Albania in the past month after riots caused by the collapse in January of fraudulent savings schemes.

The WFP's regional director, Jean-Marie Boucher, said the Italian-led troops would be a welcome safety net: "If they can provide assistance when we need it, then we hope to co-ordinate with them." He added that there had so far been no talks with any members of the force.

There were hopeful signs yesterday that the soldiers and the aid workers might finally make contact. Officers at the French base camp near Durres were asking journalists for the WFP's address in the capital, Tirana.

It is still unclear whether the multinational operation, codenamed "Alba", will try to disarm the population, many of whom seized weapons from government stores during the chaos. The Danes and Austrians are said to be keen to try, while the Italians and French have ruled it out for the time being as being too dangerous.

Italian troops have been issued with a phrase-book telling them how to shout *"Stop!"* and *"Drop the gun!"* in Albanian.

Some officials suspect the troop deployment has been driven more by the internal politics of Nato than the needs of the Albanian people.

France, which failed recently in its attempt to have one of its men appointed as head of Nato's southern command, is the keenest among the European member states to construct a counterweight to United States military dominance within the alliance.

The troops

THE contributors to Operation Alba are: **Italy** 2,500 soldiers including mechanised infantry units, paratroops and marines; **France** 1,000 soldiers, a mechanised regiment, helicopters and logistics specialists; **Greece** About 800, mechanised infantry; **Turkey** 600-800 marines; **Spain** 450, mechanised infantry; **Romania** 400, mechanised infantry; **Austria** 120, infantry; **Denmark** 60, light infantry.

French soldiers on a beach near Durres prepare for the arrival yesterday of the main contingent of peacekeepers PHOTOGRAPH: JEAN-PHILIPPE KSIAZEK

Amnesty hits at UN rights chief

Reuter in Geneva

AMNESTY International said yesterday that the departing United Nations high commissioner for human rights, José Ayala Lasso, had "consistently failed" to speak out against abuses.

It urged the UN to choose a successor who would do better. Amnesty also called on member states to increase finance for UN field operations, which employ 250 rights monitors in 12 countries, including Bosnia, Cambodia, Rwanda and Zaire.

The UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, is expected to appoint a successor next month to Mr Ayala Lasso, who left in March to become Ecuador's foreign minister.

"The new high commissioner must be willing to confront governments when necessary," Amnesty said in Geneva, where the UN Human Rights Commission winds up its annual six-week session on Friday.

Mr Annan is known to prefer a woman for the post. The Irish president, Mary Robinson, and Costa Rica's ambassador to Washington, Sonia Picado, are candidates.

"José Ayala Lasso consistently failed to confront gross human rights violators," Amnesty said, adding that his policy of "quiet diplomacy" meant he did not speak out against repressive regimes and stalled attempts to open offices in Chechenia and Indonesia.

But some UN sources defended Mr Ayala Lasso, saying quiet diplomacy had enabled the UN to set up rights monitoring offices in Rwanda, Burundi and Colombia.

"It achieved concrete results," said one UN source. "We never would have had these reports from Burundi and Rwanda — which not even Amnesty can match — if the high commissioner had not started quiet diplomacy with those governments and made it possible to establish those offices."

● China's ambassador to Japan yesterday asked the Japanese for support in blocking a Denmark-led UN resolution condemning China's human rights record.

Japan has not yet decided whether to support the resolution and turned down the request, it was reported.

Denmark — encouraged by the United States — presented the resolution last Thursday to the UN Human Rights Commission. It will be put to a vote this week.

Belated farewell to town swastika

Austria is forcing one mayor to clean up Nazi 'brown spots' and build a Holocaust memorial, writes **Kate Connolly** in Wels

AN Austrian town littered with memorials to its Nazi past — known as "brown spots" — has been forced to clean up its image.

Backed by the chancellor, Viktor Klima, the Austrian Young Socialists have succeeded in their campaign to change the hue of Wels, Upper Austria. The brown spots are a memorial to the Waffen SS, a recreation hall sporting a swastika named after a Nazi athlete, and a street bearing the name of the composer of the Nazi anthem, The Swastika Song.

The town mayor, Karl Bregartner, who has voiced his opposition to renaming the sports hall and street, has been given until October to remove the offending signs and to erect a monument to Holocaust victims.

Wels' sports hall, named the Moritz Etzold Hall in 1960 after an early Nazi gymnast, is to be renamed "Sports hall on the [river] Traun", and a swastika *removed from the wall.* Made from plaster, four "F"s, standing for Frisch, Fröhlich, Fromm and Frei (fresh, joyful, pious and free) form the hooks of the swastika. Last year, it was white-washed by town officials in an attempt to blend it into the wall.

The town's Kernstock Street, named after Ottaker Kernstock in 1959, is also to be "de-nazified". A Catholic priest, Kernstock was a nationalist poet who wrote The Swastika Song. One of the founders of national socialism, he died before Hitler came to power.

For a browned-off Mayor Bregartner, who has held his post for 15 years, it is a black and white issue. "As long as there are other Kernstock Streets in other towns, why should Wels have to make the change?" he said.

The Young Austrian Socialists have said they will widen their campaign to rid Austria of the 53 other Kernstock streets.

> A memorial to the Waffen SS was stolen from a town church

But local residents are livid, none more so than those of Kernstock Street. Getrud Avl, aged 62, helps run a fun-fair, one of four businesses in the street. "Businesses here will have to change notepaper, business cards, registration forms and stamps."

Rightwing controversy is not new in Wels. In September 1994, a memorial to local members of the *Waffen SS was stolen from* a church, after the Wels Citizens Against Fascism campaigned to have the 30-year-old plaque removed. Mayor Bregartner was forced to back down after initially permitting the commissioning of a replacement plaque.

As part of the deal struck with the Socialist Party, Mr Bregartner has also agreed to erect a monument to the 1,200 Jews who died in Wels, which lies on the death-march route prisoners had to take between Mauthausen and Gunskirchen concentration camps.

squares and lanes. Signs have already been changed in three towns, including the Dr Ottaker Kernstock Lane in Vienna.

Robert Pichler, chairman of the Young Socialists said: "We've fought for over three years for this."

Opposition taps energy kings

David Hearst in Moscow

LEFTWING and nationalist opposition forces in Russia are planning a fundamental realignment, hoping to entice on to their side the oil and gas barons who have become the latest *targets of Boris Yeltsin's* privatising government.

The change was signalled by the leader of a nationalist think-tank, Spiritual Heritage, which stands on the right wing of the alliance of communists and nationalists created during last year's presidential election campaign by Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist leader.

Alexei Podberioskin, leader of Spiritual Heritage, called for a "historical compromise" between *"reformers, traditionalists* and the left". The call came as Russia's richest and most powerful gas baron, *Rem Vyakhirev, the chair*man of Gazprom, denounced cabinet plans to restructure the oil and gas monopolies as a conspiracy of foreign interests and the International Monetary Fund.

The cabinet, dominated increasingly by two new first deputy prime ministers, Anatoly Chubais and Boris Nemtsov, gave Mr Vyakhirev a month to work out plans to restructure Gazprom. A Chubais ally, Alfred Kokh, the deputy prime minister, said the government was considering taking direct control of its shares.

The cabinet's attack on Gazprom, the electricity monopoly and the national railway *system, puts* the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, in a difficult position. A former Gazprom chairman and a *multi-millionaire, he has* been the leading representative of the gas and oil monopolies.

But since the nomination of the new government, Mr Chernomyrdin has been publicly humiliated by President Yeltsin for failing to ensure that wages and pensions are paid on time and that taxes are collected.

The communist and nationalist opposition forces are hoping to exploit the divisions between the Western-backed privatisers in the cabinet and the oil and gas barons. They say they are offering their political support to save the depleted national industrial heritage from domination by American and other foreign oil companies.

But speaking a week before the annual congress of the Communist Party, Mr Podberioskin ruled out the use of mass political protest and industrial action.

"Even if spontaneous radical protest would win, the struggle [between competing political clans] would continue ... The only path open to us today is the formation of a coalition of 'statists' who represent all political forces in the country," he said.

This call is likely to be endorsed by Mr Zyuganov, for whom Mr Yeltsin's recent *return to the political stage* after ill health was very unwelcome. He suddenly found himself under attack from the left wing of his party for supporting Mr Chernomyrdin's budget during Mr Yeltsin's absence.

Israeli conflict threatens £4bn Euro-Med deal

John Hooper, Southern Europe Correspondent

IT IS precisely what the *architects of the European* Union's new Mediterranean initiative had feared: that their £4 billion project could become enmeshed in the tangled skein of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

When the 'Euro-Med' programme was being framed, with Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin alive and a Palestinian state taking shape, the risk seemed acceptable. But last night, as the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, and Israel's foreign minister, David Levy, prepared to fly to Malta for the first high-level meeting to review the progress of the scheme, it looked all too daunting.

Reports from Israel have said Mr Levy was worried that Arab states would use the conference today as an opportunity to attack Israeli settlement policy. There were signs that he could stay away and indeed it was not until late yesterday that a spokesman confirmed the foreign minister would attend.

The meeting will be the first opportunity for ministers from all 27 countries in the Euro-Med partnership to look at what has been achieved in the past 17 months since it was started at a conference in Barcelona. The project aims at mitigating some of the problems posed for the EU by the poverty and instability to be found on the eastern and southern shores of the Mediterranean. *Those problems* range from illegal immigration to drug trafficking and terrorism.

One of the objects of the programme is to encourage the growth of prosperity. The EU is committed to making available some £6.5 million in grants, soft loans and project aid before 2000. It is seeking to create a free-trade zone encompassing the EU and 12 of its Mediterranean neighbours *by 2010.*

Israel had earlier been reported to be seeking a guarantee from EU diplomats that the Arab states would not turn the meeting into a forum for denouncing the Netanyahu government. The European Council president, Hans van Mierlo, has said publicly they will not.

But it is a tempting opportunity: it will be the first time President Arafat and Mr Levy have been in the same room since the unrest that began last month over the building of a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem.

Palestinian officials said the special European envoy to the Middle East, Miguel Angel Moratinos, had proposed that Mr Arafat should hold a private meeting with Mr Levy to try to resolve the crisis. A Palestinian official said, however, that no meeting was planned.

The present dispute has frozen talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation and unless the peace process can be started again there is a danger that the entire Euro-Med programme could become unworkable. That is acknowledged privately in Brussels and openly in the Arab world.

The secretary-general of Lebanon's foreign ministry, Zafer al-Hassan, said his position was: "There will be no involvement in any regional projects if the peace process is *stumbling.*"

A further and more controversial proposal is for a security pact. A draft Charter of Peace and Stability will be on the table in Malta, though it is unlikely to be agreed and signed there.

HOUSE INSURANCE
SAVE UP TO 50% or MORE
e.g. LONDON & HOME COUNTIES
£100,000 Buildings Sum Insured
Premium Only £154.00
LOWER Premiums in most Other Areas
0345 123111
All calls charged at local rate
Ask for a quote on the Internet: http://www.hhh.co.uk
Hill House Hammond
Cutting The Cost Of Your Insurance

We are perfectly prepared to take a very tough line [on fisheries policy] indeed, but we've got to make sure the tough line works

Tony Blair

The market in fishing licences was created by the Government because they would not pay for boats to be decommissioned

Ewan Dunn, fisheries expert

Terry Marsh campaign knockout

Alex Bellos

FORMER world champion boxer Terry Marsh announced last night he was standing down as a Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate after being charged with an offence concerning a student grant application.

Mr Marsh, aged 39, is accused of obtaining property and a service by deception in connection with a grant application between May 1995 and December 1996 when he was studying for an MA in contemporary political history at Guildhall University, London.

The former boxer said last night that he would be standing down as the candidate for East Thurrock and Basildon to refute the allegations.

He said: "It is with regret that this decision has been taken at such a late stage but it was hoped and expected that the matter would have been resolved earlier. I wish the Liberal Democrats every success at the forthcoming general election."

Mr Marsh, a lifelong Labour supporter until a conversion to the Liberal Democrats last year, first became a student in 1990 while in prison on remand for allegedly shooting his erstwhile promoter Frank Warren.

He was cleared of attempted murder and went on to gain a degree in politics and sociology at the University of East London in 1994.

Mr Marsh won his world light-welterweight title in 1987. He won the International Boxing Federation version of the title after beating American Joe Manley in a circus tent in the Essex new town, his home for two decades, stopping him in the tenth round.

He stopped fighting later that year after revealing that he suffered from epilepsy, and, after a brief acting career, the former firemen returned to education. Before becoming a boxer he was a chess champion and a Royal Marine. He served with UN peacekeeping forces in Cyprus and in Northern Ireland.

The Liberal Democrats are not expected to win Basildon, which in the last general election was regarded as a national barometer of opinion. Its Conservative MP, David Amess, has stood down to contest the neighbouring — and safer — seat of Southend West.

At the last election the Liberal Democrats came third in the town which had come to symbolise the political triumph of working-class Conservatism under Margaret Thatcher. The Tories won the seat with 24,159 (45 per cent), followed by Labour with 22,679 (42 per cent). The Liberal Democrats polled 6,967 votes (13 per cent).

A Liberal Democrat source said a new candidate would be selected for the seat within 48 hours. "Mr Marsh stood down as soon as the allegations were raised. Liberal Democrats have acted quickly to resolve this situation."

Terry Marsh: deception charges over student grant

Fisherman's friends . . . John Major meets a turbot in Newlyn yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: RUSSELL BOYCE

Leaders fish for votes over quotas

Major and Blair pledge Euro challenge over fisheries policy

Karnal Ahmed and Michael White

JOHN Major and Tony Blair yesterday promised Cornish fishermen that they are prepared to disrupt agreement at the crucial June meeting of European Union heads of state if there is no decision to overhaul the Common Fisheries Policy.

The prime minister's pledge to disrupt the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) in Amsterdam prompted Mr Blair to match it even as he and Paddy Ashdown mocked the Government for "vacuous sabre rattling" as ineffectually over fish as they did last year over the beef crisis.

Fisheries ministers meeting in Luxembourg yesterday reached no conclusions on the long-running controversy which successive governments have promised to tackle since fish conservation and the sale of national quotas began to hurt the British industry in the mid-80s.

With the next formal review of the fisheries policy not due until 2002, neither side can expect much progress in Amsterdam where the majority will try to kick it into touch for bilateral talks with Spain.

EU fish commissioner, Emma Bonino, last night reminded London that further fleet reductions are needed and that quota selling is a free trade issue which could rebound against British attempts at "protectionism."

In his latest attempt to put Europe at the centre of the campaign, the Prime Minister used his visit to threatened Tory marginals in Cornwall — St Ives plus Falmouth and Camborne — to say that he was not worried about leaving Britain isolated in Europe if he felt it was in the country's best interests.

"The IGC will not come to a successful conclusion until we are satisfied that amongst our other objectives the problem of quota-hopping is satisfactorily resolved," he said.

Fishery policy rules limit the catches of each fishing vessel under the quota system. "Quota-hopping" allows foreign trawler owners, usually Dutch or Spanish, to buy fish quota licences from British fishermen and then sell the catch abroad.

Up to 40 per cent of the UK quota for some species is controlled by foreign-owned vessels. British fishermen lose out as the overall UK quota is subsequently reduced, ministers say. The Treasury failed to match EU funds to modernise UK fleets, say critics.

As the Lib Dems demanded a full review of the fisheries policy, Labour said ministers had failed to have the quota problem resolved at the last 10-yearly review in 1992.

But even though Labour is keen to mend fences with Europe, Mr Blair told Radio 4's World at One: "Where Britain's interests are at stake we are perfectly prepared to be isolated, of course we are. What we don't seek is a policy of perpetual isolation . . . We are perfectly prepared to take a very tough line on this indeed. But we've got to make sure the tough line works. What has happened with the Conservatives in Europe is that sure, their rhetoric is tough, but what they get is failure."

On the same programme Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, accused Labour of another campaign U-turn under pressure, a charge Mr Major repeated last night in Plymouth. In fact, Mr Blair has used the formula before.

Mr Major told fishermen in Newlyn, some of whom are supporting Sir James Goldsmith who campaigned there last week, that quota-hopping was problem no one had foreseen which had to be tackled along with fish conservation.

"Is it a threat? No, it isn't. What it is is a determination to look after the interests of the present and the future of an important British industry," he said. The candidate in St Ives, William Rogers, is one of nearly 200 who say in their election addresses that they will never vote for a single European currency, contrary to the official "wait and see" policy.

A Goldsmith supporter told Mr Major: "Nearly 90 per cent of fishermen used to be Conservatives but Tory is a four letter word now."

'It is hypocritical to expect Europe to sort out a mess of our making'

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

IN simple terms "quota hopping" translates into British fishermen selling their boats, and with them their licences to fish in British waters, to the Spanish and Dutch.

While in other EU countries there were government schemes to help fishermen retire or leave the industry, the strapped-for-cash British skippers were left to sell their boats and quotas to the highest bidder. A clapped-out boat without a quota was worth £5,000 in 1988, but with its licence the Spanish would pay £150,000.

In other words market forces operated. But why were the Spanish so keen? The reason is that their government had paid to decommission all the Spanish boats the EU had asked them to, and so had been able to cash in on the millions of ecus in regional funds on offer for those keeping to the rules. Countries benefitting from these funds used them to buy British boats and licences.

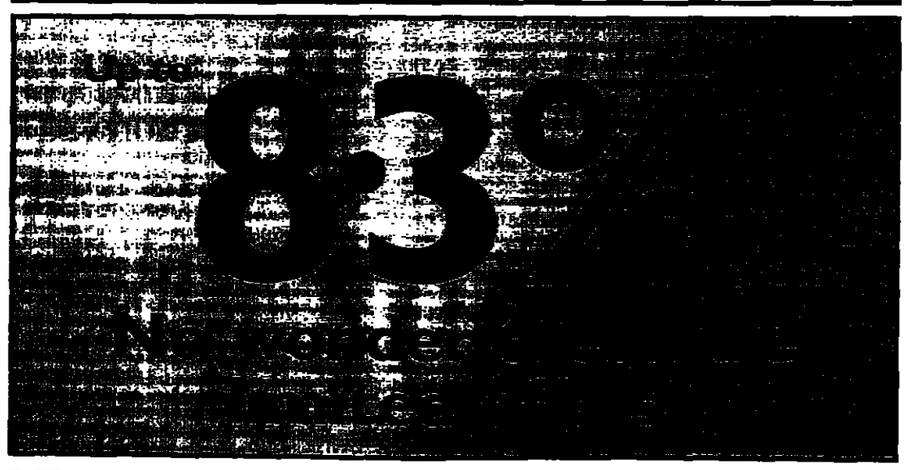
Ewan Dunn, fisheries expert at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "The market in fishing licences was created by the Government because they would not pay for boats to be decommissioned between 1987 and 1991. Skippers leaving the industry were forced to sell them along with their licences to the highest bidder. It is cynical to pretend they did not know what was happening and hypocritical to expect Europe to sort out a mess of our own making."

Nigel Atkins, from the National Federation of Fishing Organisations, said: "Because the British government did not make decommissioning available the fishermen were forced to sell."

Ministry of Agriculture civil servants have advised the Government that current sabre-rattling in Europe has no hope of success. The 160 foreign-flagged vessels, roughly 110 Spanish, 40 Dutch and 10 Belgian, have been bought on the open market and legally represent 20 per cent of the British fleet.

A boat (with a quota) would cost £300,000 now, or more than £30 million to get the British quota back, assuming it was for sale.

THE DIRECT LINE 2 YEAR AND 3 YEAR FIXED RATE BONDS.



2 YEAR BOND	YEAR 1	YEAR 2
£5,000–£24,999	6.1%	7.5%
£25,000–£49,999	6.3%	7.7%
£50,000+	6.4%	8.0%

3 YEAR BOND	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
£5,000–£24,999	6.2%	7.2%	8.2%
£25,000–£49,999	6.25%	7.25%	8.25%
£50,000+	6.3%	7.3%	8.3%

All rates quoted are gross* and correct at 4th April 1997. Interest on investments of £50,000 or over will always be paid gross.

- Look at these great rates on our 2 and 3 year fixed rate bonds.
- The more you invest the more interest you gain.
- In this period of uncertainty this is a great way to guarantee excellent returns.
- The minimum investment is only £5,000 and there is no maximum investment.
- But this offer can't last forever so call Direct Line now.

DIRECT LINE SAVINGS

0181 667 1121 LONDON

0161 833 1121 MANCHESTER

0141 221 1121 GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. GA3

www.directline.co.uk

A Royal Bank of Scotland company.

Deposits are provided by Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 2 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DW. Deposits are protected by the Deposit Protection Scheme established under the Banking Act 1987. For amounts of £20,000 or less, 90% of a depositor's total deposits subject to it maximum payment, are protected. Further details of the Scheme are available on request. *The gross rate is the rate before tax. All rates shown are based on annual payment of interest. For third party introduced business, the withdrawals are permitted prior to the end of the term. For full details, please see our leaflet. Calls may be recorded and the recording kept secure. We may also monitor telephone calls for your protection to improve our service and for training purposes. Direct Line and the red telephone on wheels are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc.

Whitehouse and Kinnock return but schools top agenda — from children to cod

Campaign Day

Martin Wainwright

LIKE a strange but thought-provoking Zen exchange, Labour's campaign mantra was altered yesterday to read "Education, education, education . . . fish".

Arriving at Millbank to watch Tony Blair let rip on the positive issue of classrooms — as extensively trailed by Peter Mandelson — we were treated instead to a party flyer headed "Fins can only get better".

Gulp! Negative campaigning had struck again, in a Tory-bash worthy of the fierce prose of Angling Times (Carp King Tone Slugs It Out With Maggot Man John). There were smirks at Central Office, which had launched a fish offensive earlier in the morning; the day's agenda had been neatly hooked, from schools of children to schools of cod.

The Prime Minister was fingered as the man behind the coup, given his record of turning apparent insults — such as "normal" or "boring" — into positive assets like blokeishness and not being vain. So polls and focus groups suggest that the voters consider me a "wet fish"? Quick, where's the nearest trawler?

Rocking some hours later on the MV Cornishman at Newlyn, Mr Major put a Francis Drake (above) spin on the start of the fourth election week, possibly with an eye on Sir James Goldsmith (who has signed up two of the crew for the Referendum Party). Quota hoppers would be scattered, said the PM. The Bonino (below) — not a new type of fish, but the EU fisheries commissioner — would be confounded.

There was even a reference to Mystic Meg, whose election forecast is still eagerly awaited by punters. Some of these, back in London, were meanwhile being fanned into growing excitement by Mystic Tone, whom they believe to be slowly revealing his and Cherie's lottery numbers through the medium of party policies. Yesterday it was the turn of 21 — thinly concealed in the schools initiative "21 steps to top-class education in the 21st century". The gamblers have added this to 10 (in Mr Blair's 10-point handwritten contract with the nation), 22 (the 22 Tory tax rises), and five (the five key pledges).

The fifth number is expected to be hidden in today's announcements. The sixth, rather to the anxiety of civil servants who may be required to carry out all the promises, is generally assumed to be the infallible 44 (above right).

Labour was also handing out a useful freebie for journalists with teenage children: a cassette of the remixed D:Ream classic Things Can Only Get Better, the party's campaign anthem, which the Conservatives want banned from the BBC.

Once in the Top 40 (and yesterday's handout must have given things a useful push), nothing can stop the song booming out on Sunday afternoons with all the royalties going to Labour.

The Spice Girls, of course, are never far away from this media-centred election, and we're not talking about the all-women slate for the Hampstead constituency in north London. The first general election male exclusion zone will see Glenda Jackson debate this Thursday with her rivals Elizabeth Gibson (Con), Bridget Fox (Lib Dem), Patsy Prince (UK Ind) and Monima Siddique (Referendum).

Leeds's contribution to the Spice Age, Mel B, meanwhile emerged as British teenagers' first choice for prime minister, beating off Posh Spice Victoria and TJ from the 3Ts in a magazine poll largely on the strength of her Heseltine-gone-haywire thatch of hair. On that score, voters were showing an approving interest in the formidable beard of David Bellamy, which had its first outing in John Major's Huntingdon seat.

The 63-year-old naturalist, who is standing for the Referendum Party, expressed alarm at his instant popularity on a walkabout in Huntingdon town centre. "It's starting to worry me — I might get elected," he said.

High above, on the pinnacle of his 36,230 majority, the country's largest, Mr Major was not unduly worried, although a sniper's question about Martin Bell got him reminiscing about previous non-party candidates. "I had a Lord Buckethead fighting me in Huntingdon last time," he said — maybe rashly, because a second Bell front opened up yesterday in another part of the Fens.

Not an anti-corruption candidate, but a spin-off of Bell Junior's fame in the form of a new society to honour the works of Adrian Bell, the Tatton challenger's late father, who wrote 20 books of countryside musings and observations on the flatlands round his farm near Beccles.

Tatton spin-offs are also selling well at Politicos, the new Westminster bookshop where Ian Greer's revelations will be launched on Thursday. Staff there reported a grippingly even fight yesterday between badges saying "Neil Hamilton Is Innocent" and the rival "Martin Bell For Tatton". Both had notched up 50 sales.

And so to the ghosts of great battles past, who swept on to the battlefield yesterday — first in the form of Mary Whitehouse (below), who rang up Election Call to harass Margaret Beckett about Internet pornography. "I've heard it all before," she said, after Mrs Beckett had said that Labour was appalled and worried about this. "They talk but they don't do anything."

The other gutsy returnee was Neil Kinnock, now The Bonino's colleague as EU transport commissioner, who went into action for Oona King, Labour's candidate in Bethnal Green and Bow, in the East End of London. Apart from a cheerful prophecy that the Labour-Tory poll gap would never shrink as it had in 1992, he got in a shaft against the "Royal College of Spin Doctors", blue, yellow and red.

The day ended with Paddy Ashdown pouncing on "Polo economics" at the Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen (the Lib Dems will provide the political equivalent of the Polo holes, beloved of schoolkids though not of ecstasy tab-hunting police). And Mr Major showed his populist side again with a canny reference to "someone once saying: if you can't stand the heat, don't get in the kitchen".

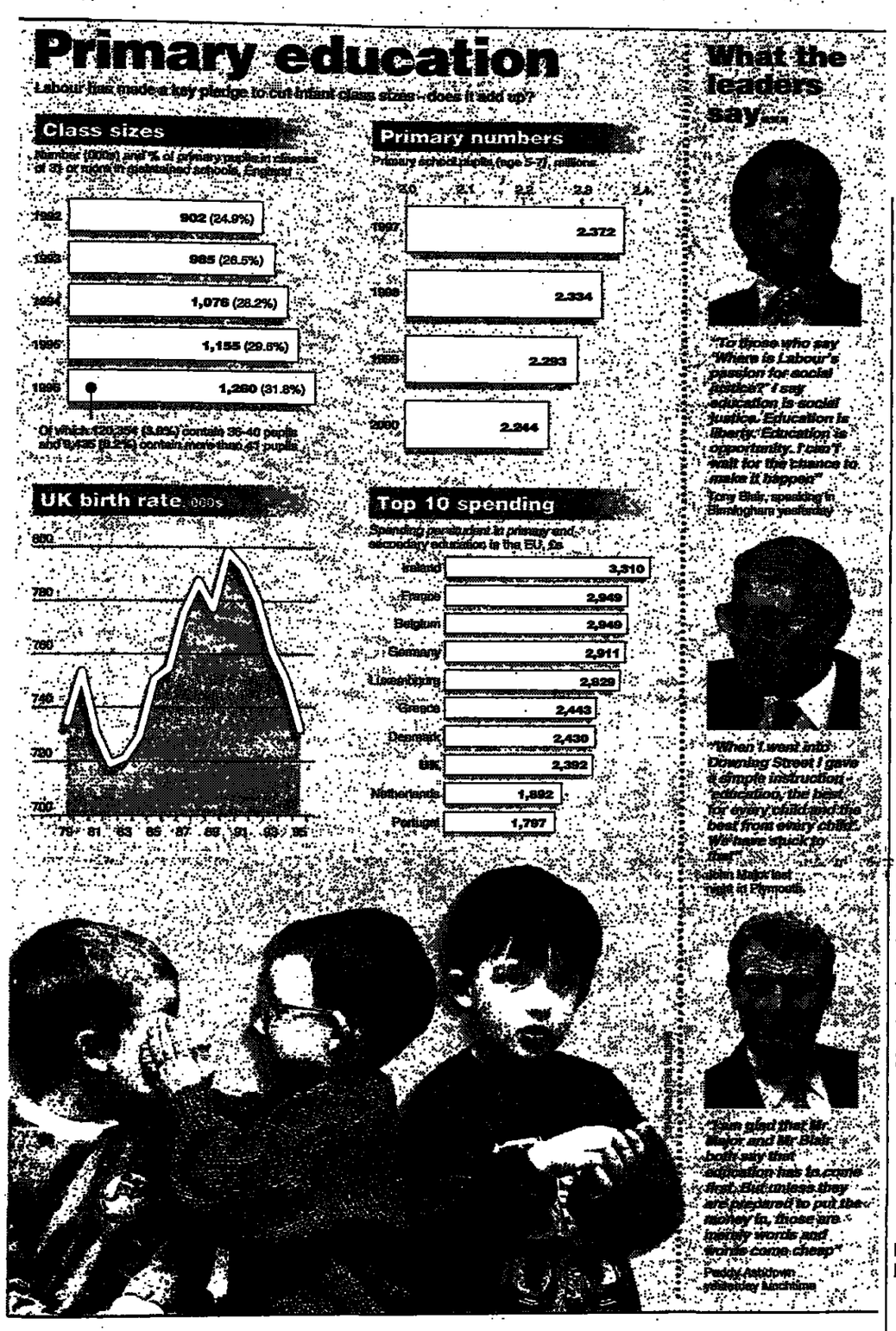
Actually, superior commentators observed, it wasn't "somebody" but President Harry Truman, the comment was one of America's most famous quotes and should properly be "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen". Droves of ordinary Joes humiliated in classrooms, Trivial Pursuit or PTA quiz nights could be seen switching to the PM's side.

'Seventy per cent of GCSE performance is predictable at the age of seven. You have to tackle the early years'
Ralph Taberer, educationalist

'I have no intention of waging war on any schools except failing schools. . . . We will tackle what isn't working, not what is.'
Tony Blair

THE BIG ISSUE: EDUCATION

A matter of class for Blair



What the leaders say...

"To those who say 'Where is Labour's passion for social justice?' I say education is social justice. Education is liberty. Education is opportunity. I can't wait for the chance to make it happen"
Tony Blair, speaking in Birmingham yesterday

"When I went into Downing Street I gave a simple instruction - education, the best for every child and the best from every child. We have stuck to that"
Gordon Major-Ball, right in Plymouth.

"I am glad that Mr Major and Mr Blair both say that education has to come first. But unless they are prepared to put the money in, those are merely words and words come cheap"
Paddy Ashdown, yesterday Mochtime

Measures aim to reverse the inexorable rise in the number of pupils per teacher, which worries parents and has been shown to affect standards

Sarah Boseley

IT'S the question every parent wants answered. Can Labour deliver its ambitious pledge to cut class sizes to a maximum of 30 for all five-, six- and seven-year-olds?

Tony Blair has put it at the heart of his campaign — one of his five key pledges. It's an ambitious-sounding plan, to fund radical improvement with money saved by phasing out the Assisted Places Scheme. It is in fact more feasible than it sounds because of the declining numbers of children in those age groups.

Demographics play a significant part in calculations over *pupil-teacher ratios*. The peaks and troughs in the birth rate over the years have always been a problem for the education service, because of fluctuations in the numbers of teachers required.

At yesterday's press conference, where Labour chose to throw down the education gauntlet, David Blunkett, shadow education and employment spokesman, demanded straight answers from John Major. "Class sizes have risen by 40 per cent in primary schools since 1992. If the Tories are re-elected, the House of Commons library has predicted that 500,000 more primary children could be in classes of over 30 by the year 2000."

This is dramatic stuff, but the birth rate peaked in 1990, at 798,612. Those children are now seven. The steady decline since means that there will be around 40,000 fewer children in the five to seven band each year from now until at least 2000.

Smaller class sizes are a vote-winning issue. The private sector knows how attractive the idea is to parents — it is one of its main selling points, and on average it offers classes of about 15.

Ofsted, in a report in 1995, said: "Small class sizes are of benefit in the early years of primary education." Tony Blair yesterday quoted Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector, who said small classes were good "for young children and also for children with learning difficulties".

The Star project in Tennessee, United States, is the most elaborate study undertaken. It compared pupils in what were *considered large classes* — 25 — with those in classes of 15. Researchers monitored 9,000 children in all, and found not only improvements in the performance of children in small classes, but also in self-respect, consideration for others, punctuality and other social skills. The state legislature was so impressed that it plans to cut all classes to 20 by the year 2000.

The National Foundation for Educational Research, an independent body which costed the Labour Party's proposals, says there is evidence that good early years education is vital. "About 70 per cent of pupils' performance at GCSE is predictable at the age of seven," said Ralph Tabberer, assistant director. "If you want to improve achievements and standards in this country, you have to tackle the early years."

Class size is not a magic potion — other improvements, in teaching standards and school provision, are also important. But cutbacks in spending on teachers have led to a steady rise in class sizes, and the question is at what point one calls a halt.

Labour says that moment has come, and proposes to fund it by scrapping — slowly — the Assisted Places Scheme, which allows bright children from low-income families to attend selective independent schools. In practice, many of the families are middle-class one-parent families, rather than low-earning working class.

But the figures don't add up, the Conservatives claimed yesterday. The NPER has costed the proposed class size reduction at £68 million, and their figures are supported broadly by Cipfa (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants) and by Ofsted. The Tories say they will not release that amount of cash through disbanding the Assisted Places Scheme.

The Tory argument was confused yesterday when Alan Duncan, a member of *the Conservative Campaign* Team, claimed there would be nearly 11,000 assisted places this September — which will be true if the Conservatives get in, because they plan to expand the scheme. In 1995, when Labour's plans were costed, there were 5,700 places, according to the DfEE, which rose to 9,700 places in September last year. There are 34,000 children with an assisted place, who will all be allowed to continue until they have finished their education.

The point, says Mr Duncan, is that all those assisted place children have to be educated in the state system if the scheme goes. He alleges this would cost £208 million.

That figure is much exaggerated. The cost to the nation of educating a child in the private sector is more than that of educating the child in a state school. Isis, the independent schools information service, puts the average cost of an assisted place at £3,700 per child, aproximately £800 more, it says, than the average recurrent cost of a maintained secondary school place, up to age 16, and £100 more than a sixth-form place.

But Labour argues that the extra pupils could probably be subsumed in the system without much additional cost. Absorbing 34,000 children, spread across seven years of secondary school education, would not cause a major upset.

Extra primary school teachers can probably be recruited to reduce class sizes. Far more worrying is dealing with teacher shortages in secondary schools, where the demographic bulge is beginning to show. Disaffected teachers in their fifties have been hanging up their chalk prematurely — 13,055 retired early last year, compared with 4,497 at the normal age. Increased stress is a big factor, and nearly 6,000 left on grounds of ill-health.

But in certain vital subjects, we are staring crisis in *the face — and there is no* quick solution in sight. In maths, science technology and to some extent modern languages, there is a dire shortage. In maths and science, the future looks bleak because each year fewer sixth formers are opting to take these subjects at A level, preferring arts and humanities.

A look at the numbers going to teacher training in these subjects is revealing. The target for maths graduates this September is 2,500. So far, only 360 have signed up. Physics and chemistry are a nightmare. Only 78 physicists and 126 chemists have been recruited — and there are vacancies in nearly 4,000 secondary schools.

This analysis is based on work commissioned by the Guardian from Professor Ted Wragg of the School of Education at Exeter University.

Soothing words, but nothing new

Tony Blair offered no quick fixes to a complex problem

John Carvel
Education Editor

TONY BLAIR'S speech was more like a ministerial teach-in alerting colleagues to the complexity of the subject than an attempt to sway votes by highlighting a couple of key themes.

The breadth of approach will be welcomed by the professionals who know there is no single measure — with the possible exception of unavailably large pots of extra public spending — which could address, for example, preschool reading skills at the same time as raising standards at university. But the political impact on the doorsteps may be limited.

After two years of hard slog by David Blunkett inventing fresh initiatives to keep education at the centre of the political debate, Mr Blair was not trying to make new policy announcements. He did, however, flesh out Labour's answer to the anguish faced by many parents — particularly in the inner cities — who fear the local comprehensive is not good enough for their children.

This is the question on which the Conservatives most want to focus because of the Blair family's own choice of a grant-maintained school some distance across London in preference to the local authority option.

Mr Blair said: "I have no intention of waging war on any schools except failing schools. So far as the existing 160 grammar schools are concerned, as long as the parents want them, they will stay. Grant-maintained schools will prosper. Church schools will too . . . We will tackle what isn't working, not what is."

Labour would redirect the Conservative programme, encouraging comprehensives to bid for extra funds to specialise in technology, languages, music or sport. It would make them "beacons of excellence", sharing their specialist facilities with other local schools. The main beneficiaries would be "all gifted children" in the area who could take advantage of the extra provision "both during the normal school week and after hours and at weekends".

The scheme would be directed particularly at the inner-cities, where schools would be encouraged to agree partnership bids instead of competing against each other. However, Labour has not followed the promise made by the Tories at the start of the campaign to double the cost of the programme. Mr Blair's target is 450 specialist comprehensives, while Mr Major is aiming at 720 specialist schools. Specialist status brings a start-up grant from the Government worth £100,000 (which has to be matched by local fund-raising), plus a subsidy of £100 per pupil.

Conservative Central Office denied Mr Major was about to adapt the initiative to provide extra subsidies for schools converting to grammar school status. He has not yet explained how he would deliver "a grammar school in every town", but the policy due to emerge over the next few days is expected to encourage ballots of parents on whether their children's schools should become more selective.

The 21 steps

- ☐ Nursery places for all four-year-olds
- ☐ Maximum class size of 30 for 5, 6 and 7-year-olds
- ☐ Assessments for all primary school entrants
- ☐ Literacy and numeracy strategy to guarantee 10 and 11-year-olds reach expected standards
- ☐ New qualification for head teachers
- ☐ Induction year for newly-qualified teachers; and "quick but fair" system for removing incompetent teachers
- ☐ New grade to recognise the best teachers; Associate Teachers to bring specialist expertise into schools
- ☐ General Teaching Council to raise standards in the profession
- ☐ Organising school classes, including setting by ability and accelerated learning, to help bright and slow learners
- ☐ Broadening A levels and upgrading vocational qualifications
- ☐ Linking every school to the information superhighway
- ☐ Public-private partnership to improve the quality of school buildings
- ☐ Every school and education authority to have annual improvement targets
- ☐ Giving failing schools a "fresh start" — by closing them down and starting them again
- ☐ Home-school contract for every pupil
- ☐ More parental influence on governing bodies and education authorities
- ☐ Minimum homework guidelines for every pupil; urban homework centres
- ☐ New scheme, Target 2000, including day release from work, to get all 18-year-olds up to the equivalent of five good GCSEs
- ☐ Improving access to higher education through a fair and efficient system of funding
- ☐ Individual Learning Accounts for adult learning, and a University for Industry to extend life-long learning for people at work
- ☐ Increased funding for education as cost of unemployment is cut

Survey undertaken by NOP Market Research among 1,000 randomly selected bank customers. Interviews were conducted by telephone between 20 Nov 1996 and 12 Dec 1996. Enquirers must be aged 18 or over. In order to safeguard our customers, certain transactions may require written confirmation. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. First Direct credit facilities are subject to status. For written details of our services write to First Direct, Freepost, Leeds LS98 2RF. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. Calls may be monitored and/or recorded. LLOYDS Cheque Account details are based on the Classic Account. The costs comprise fees of £8 per month. BARCLAYS Cheque Account details are based on the Barclays Bank Account. The costs comprise fees of £5 per month. NAT WEST Cheque Account details are based on the Current Plus Account. The costs comprise fees of £5 per month. All fees may vary in the future. First Direct variable interest rate for overdrafts up to £250 is 12.6% EAR. All information based on authorised overdrafts of 5 days or more per month and correct at 11 March 1997.
Member HSBC Group

first direct

Free from charges

Banking with First Direct is free because we do not charge Cheque Account customers for everyday banking transactions, even if you're overdrawn. And all our customers automatically receive an overdraft up to £250 – also free of any fees. So compared to other high street bank accounts you're better off with First Direct from day one. We're a member of the HSBC Group which is one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world, and in the course of a year you'll find we offer more cost effective current account banking. And the service we provide means you benefit in many other ways too.

By telephone, 24 hours a day

We provide the ultimate in convenience. You can bank with us at any time, 365 days (and nights) of the year, from wherever there's a telephone, in your home, office or car. And all UK calls are charged at local rates.

Personal and professional service

Every call is answered by our Banking Representatives. They have all they need at their fingertips to deal with your day-to-day banking needs. And when you require more specialised assistance, such as a loan, they can instantly refer you to someone who can help.

Getting cash is easy

Every Cheque Account customer receives the First Direct Card. This allows you to withdraw up to £500 a day from over 11,500 cash machines around the UK, including those of Midland. It also guarantees cheques for £100 and includes the Switch payment facility.

So is paying bills

Our service includes a free bill payment service. Simply call, tell us who to pay, how much and when, and we do it. This means you can arrange to pay your bills at the most convenient time without the need to keep having to remember to organise it.

A full banking service with more benefits

As well as our Cheque Account we offer saving, borrowing, travel and insurance services cost effectively by telephone. Take saving; our rates are always competitive, we offer transfers to and from your Cheque Account. So your money is always working hard without the need for you to do the same.

We work hard to maintain the service

The best people to demonstrate the quality of a banking service are its customers – 87%* of ours have recommended us to their friends and colleagues in the last 12 months.

Opening an account is easy too

We also appreciate how daunting changing bank accounts can be. So we make it easy. Easy to open a First Direct account, then easy to arrange for your salary to be paid in and easy for all your standing orders and direct debits to be transferred to your account. And it's easy (and free) to find out more right now. Call us on 0800 24 24 24 or complete the coupon.

Why pay to bank when First Direct is free?

Annual current account charges
(annual fees for a £250 overdraft)

Lloyds Classic	£96.00
NatWest Current Plus	£60.00
Barclays Bank Account	£60.00
First Direct Cheque Account	£0.00

If you're paying more are you with the right bank?

☎ 0800 24 24 24

Call free or complete the coupon and post to:
First Direct, FREEPOST, Leeds LS98 2RF

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms or Title
Surname
Forename(s)
UK Address
Postcode
Telephone No
BE693

The **Guardian**
Tuesday April 15 1997
Edition Number 46,838
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
Fax No. 0171-837 4530
E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk
Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk

Thatcher's grim legacy

School reforms are a priority: so is more cash

EDUCATION is not the people's top priority. That prize goes to health. But education comes a clear second on a list of 16 issues with 61 per cent of the public declaring it of major importance, way ahead of all other policies. Even law and order scores only 50 per cent. For all three political parties in the 1997 election, education has been identified as their key issue. Understandably so. It offers both the potential — and an urgent need — for more progress than any other social issue. Standards must be raised. Within the profession — and away from the political spotlight — large numbers of teachers acknowledge the need. Secondary headteachers have openly complained about the falling reading standards of pupils arriving from primary school. If only it was just reading. In the first nationwide tests in 1995, half of all 11-year-olds failed to reach the expected standards for their age in English and maths. Thatcher's children can't read, write or add up.

It is no use blaming the children. How much they achieve depends to a great extent on which school they attend. Within the same education authority, pupils at the best schools are on average nearly four years ahead in English and five and a half years ahead in maths, compared with those in the worst. All this by the age of 11. Last year's annual report from the school inspectors showed "the most successful secondary schools achieve GCSE results twice as good as others in similar socio-economic circumstances and six times better than those achieved by the least successful in less favoured areas." In other words, poverty and deprivation are part of the problem but so are bad schools. Indeed, a parliamentary question from Labour last year found GCSE results of the top 20 per cent of schools were 12 times better than the bottom 20 per cent, which averaged a mere one C per pupil.

One positive lesson can be drawn from these depressing results: schools can — and do — make a difference even in poor inner city areas. To his credit, David Blunkett was quick to recognise that raising school standards should not be left to rightwing pressure groups. Raising standards is a left-wing cause — particularly raising the standards of less academic children. It was not Labour which presided over the decline of Britain's position in international league tables on educational attainment. Tony Blair returned to education yesterday on the same day that there were reports — later denied by Conservative Central Office — that the Tories were preparing to offer "bribes" of £500,000 in government grants to comprehensive schools which were ready to go selective. The Tories have only themselves to blame for such rumours when they insist on running on a slogan — "a grammar school in every town" — rather than a properly worked-out policy.

There were no new initiatives in the Blair speech but there was an important clarification about specialist schools. There are about 150 at present which receive £100,000 to match locally raised funding for facilities in science, languages, sports, the arts and technology. The Tories have decided to increase their number to 720 — one out of every five secondary schools. Labour is ready to let schools "play to their strengths" but is sticking to the Government's existing programme of 450 by the year 2001. But what it does want is to have as many specialist schools as possible in inner cities to act as "beacons of excellence". Better still, it wants these schools to share their specialist facilities with neighbours. The double initiative — targeting and encouraging more co-operation between schools — is welcome. Now can they have some more cash?

The Lottery's improving lot

It may be John Major's only real monument to the nation

THE MAIN WAY John Major could honestly claim to be changing the face of Britain hasn't emerged at all during the election campaign. It is the National Lottery. It wasn't his original notion (it was dreamed up by the ill-rewarded Lottery Promotion Company), but he ran with it in a way that Mrs Thatcher could never have done. The idea of something smacking both of nationalisation and gambling brought her out in spots. The Lottery will probably be the most celebrated monument of John Major's government.

How is it doing? Surprisingly well, judging by the authoritative National Lottery Yearbook (published by the Directory of Social Change). The DSC found plenty of things going wrong: there is a shameful bias in the distribution of grants (London being favoured over elsewhere, richer areas over poorer ones and institutions charging admission charges over those that don't); and two of the grant-giving boards (the heritage and English arts boards) are accused of ignoring an explicit government instruction to target publicity at areas that have not lodged their fair share of bids.

But behind these criticisms lies an increasing acceptance of the huge impact that Lottery funds are having. It admits that the sums — £1.7 billion in total — committed for capital projects in 1996 have in real terms "more than made up for the massive reductions in government spending in these fields over recent decades. Within another 10 years most of the lost ground will have been recovered." Leaving aside the thorny point that this seems to assume (which the Government denies) that Lottery money is substituting for what ought to have been financed by the taxpayer, this is high praise. The report singles out the work of the Charities Board, which suffered a lot of criticism early on, for having an "electrifying effect" not least because of its insistence that its money only goes to those most disadvantaged in society (an area that the Government has abandoned). The Sports Council's work in distributing grants in an equitable way, socially and geographically, is also praised.

The Lottery is often accused of collecting surrogate taxes from the poor to indulge the artistic whims of the rich. Not all of this criticism is fair. Some prestigious metropolitan projects — like the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art — can generate dynamic effects for the whole country. But the nub of the accusation is true. If the arts and heritage funds can now follow the lead of charities and sport in spreading their largesse more fairly, then the effect of the Lottery money over the next few decades could be really dramatic. And it's all down in the end to John Major's government. So why doesn't he claim credit for it? Far be it for this newspaper to tell the Conservatives how to improve their general election campaign. But isn't Mr Major missing out on the only feelgood factor of which he could claim to be the father?

Hong Kong's right to march

How can China be even tougher than the colonialists?

THE SINS OF the past are catching up with Hong Kong, as its post-June 30 rulers say they will restore key provisions of old legislation on "civil liberties and social order." It is a false argument: is Beijing suggesting that British colonial rule was right to be repressive? And the proposals go far beyond the original (pre-Patten) wording. Bill Clinton has already signalled his concern by agreeing to meet the Democratic Party leader Martin Lee.

To impose some limits on foreign funding of political organisations is not wrong in principle: there is an irony here — we in Britain might have welcomed some such legislation to prevent Hong Kong tycoons from bankrolling the Conservative Party (the same tycoons who now support China's new restrictions). Some procedure is also needed in any society to regulate demonstrations. But the issue is not so much the proposals as the order of priorities which they reveal. Eight years after Tiananmen Square, China is still obsessed by hostile demonstrations in Hong Kong and foreign support for its critics, to the point of ignoring the damage caused to public opinion. Confidence in the new chief executive, Tung Chee-hwa, has already slipped as a result of this clumsy move: and fewer abroad will be prepared to give Beijing the benefit of the doubt for the future.

On registration of societies, the proposed definition of "foreign political organisations" is far too broad and limits the right of appeal too narrowly to the chief executive. On public processions, the list of grounds where permission may be refused is far too vague — and much longer than the old British list. Does Beijing really want to appear more reactionary than the colonialists? If this is a consultation exercise, Mr Tung and friends should listen hard to what Hong Kong is actually saying.

Letters to the Editor

The hunt continues

I HOLD no brief for stag hunting but if, as a result of such a ban, the rural communities of Exmoor and any tourists are harmed by Lymes disease (a tick-borne infection prevalent when the deer herd exceeds a critical density), as happened in New Hampshire when hunting was banned, it will be an expensive way of soothing the sensibilities of the deer.
Alan Fairhurst.
Church Lane, Prestwich, Manchester M25.

THE humane decision of the National Trust to ban stag-hunting on its land puts to shame the Church of England, one of the biggest landowners in the country, which still refuses to ban it. Church House has just told me that "the Church Commissioners leave it up to the conscience of the individual tenants of the land as to whether they allow hunting on it". In other words, the matter of rent comes before animal welfare.
George McMillan.
207 North Road, Westcliffe-on-Sea SS0 7AF.

DONALD Wisely (Letters, April 14) claims that deer have "clearly never learned" from their hunted experiences. What would deer have to do to convince him that they had? Just stand very, very still? Dead deer tell no tales. Exhausted deer don't run again.
Margaret Melicharova.
Stable Cottage, Creake Road, Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk PE31 8HW.

The story of Enid Blyton

I DISPUTE most strongly the suggestion that Enid Blyton was "frequently cruel to her own family" (The eternal child, Review, April 11). I was, and still am, a friend of her elder daughter, Gillian, whom I met at school in 1940, when we were both nine years old and I had been evacuated to Beaconsfield from the south coast.

I was in and out of Green Hedges on a daily basis and used to stay there in the school holidays. This continued when the war was over, so I knew Enid Blyton for more than 20 years. In all that time I never once found her anything but kind, friendly and fun to be with, both to myself and to both of her daughters.

She spent many hours working but she was in the house (or garden) and available if we wanted her. In the evenings, we had her undivided attention, and I remember playing noisy and hilarious games with her. Then there were the times when she took us to London — to the zoo, to Madame Tussaud's, to the pantomime, and to the theatre when we were older.

Gillian and I used to "correct" the books straight off the typewriter — one penny per mistake was the going rate. If Green Hedges had not been a happy place, I would hardly have continued to visit Enid Blyton there for so many years and I certainly remember her with great affection.
Penelope Smith.
38 Claremont Crescent, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3QR.

YOU observe of Enid Blyton's fictional world: "It's a wonderful dream, though a useless preparation for adulthood." In one way, I would say Enid Blyton *did* prepare me for adulthood — her books actually motivated me to want to learn to read, something that Dick, Dora, Fluff and Nip (characters in the reading scheme used by the primary schools I attended in the 1950s) never did.

"Fluff is a cat" was the caption under Fluff's picture. I knew that without having to read it. But after I had spent the best part of a year staring at the first page of the introductory book, my mother read a Famous Five book to me as a bedtime story. No doubt it was rooted in fantasy rather than fact, but it made me realise that reading could be fun.
Patricia O'Neill.
91 Thorold Road, Ilford, Essex IG1 4EY.

AS A children's author, I was intrigued that you thought Enid's Blyton's racism was a matter of debate. Weren't her golliwogs in The Three Golliwogs called Golly, Woggie and Nigger? Didn't she say, in Here Comes Noddy Again, that they were "bad, wicked golliwogs"? Wasn't Annie, in Five Fall Into Adventure, scared that a face which had awoken her was "perhaps a black man's face!"? And, in The Little Black Doll, isn't Sambo made happy because he isn't black any more but has instead "the dearest, pinkest, kindest face that ever I saw"? Maybe I merely imagined these and countless other examples of the crudest racism.

I was also intrigued that the main argument put forward for the endurance of Blyton was her popularity. Popularity is however not the best argument for quality: the Sun is certainly the most popular daily newspaper in Britain, but is it the best? Blyton is popular partly because she writes simply and because she evokes a child-generated and child-dominated universe, and because her prolific output makes her work collectable.

She is also marketable. Many poor books are bought because they are there on the shelves, and let's not forget that it is often adults who buy books for children. How many Blyton purchases occur because of nostalgia? What's more, many excellent titles are neglected because they are simply not stocked, and Blyton's biographers have shown how astute and ruthless she was commercially.
Alan Gibbons.
13 Chatsworth Avenue, Liverpool L9 3AX.

ENID Blyton is to be honoured in 1997 with special postage stamps. J J Thomson's discovery of the electron a hundred years ago, isn't; in 1996 William Morris's centenary wasn't considered important enough for a stamp. Noddy and Big Ears rule OK!
Bernard Stem.
1 Barton Croft, Barton-on-Sea, New Milton, Hants BH25 7BT.

Election call

COULD it be that Neil Hamilton is prepared to accept the opprobrium linked to his standing for Parliament because the alternative is that he will have to spend more time with his family?
Brian Ross-Meering.
20 Oxhey Road, Watford, Herts WD1 4QQ.

I AM an Englishman who is not an MP, and I am not sovereign over anything worth a mention. In what ways would I be disadvantaged if the Scots *were* to be independent?
Donald Simpson.
51 Kingsway, Rochdale OL16 5HN.

THE Tories have made it plain that we can trust them no more on syntax than on any other tax. Unless their point is that we are not permitted to be unsure, what I think they mean by their rallying slogan "You can only be sure of the Conservatives" is "You can be sure only of the Conservatives". Where, one wonders, did they go to school?
Stephen Pettitt.
39 Darwin Road, London W5 4BA.

Car sickness

I SEE from television commercials that Fiat is promoting a new car called the Marea. I chuckle at the thought that Fiat may, even as I write, be running a similar marketing campaign in Spain and Latin America, presumably seeking to emulate the infamous 1970s campaign for the Chevy Nova (*no va*, in Spanish, means "doesn't go").

As the University of Chicago Spanish Dictionary defines it, whereas *marea* means "tide", *marearse* means "to get seasick, nauseated; dizzy", and *mareo* — "seasickness; nausea; vexation, annoyance".
Stewart Russell.
5 Greyladies Gardens, Wat Tyler Road, London SE10 8AU.

Whatever happened to him?

I SEE that the "Newspaper of the Year" is misquoting one of the world's greatest books (Ancient and holey Hampton Court maze faces the chop, April 11).

You write: "The maze at Hampton Court in which Jerome K Jerome's Three Men In A Boat confidently took each turn to the right and became hopelessly lost . . ." As I am on tour with my one-man show Three Men In A Boat, allow me to point out that, in the book, only Harris is in the maze with a country cousin. He tells the tale to JKJ and they agree to try to get George to go into it on the way back. George isn't with them as it's Saturday morning.

Remember the text: "George goes to sleep at a bank every day except Saturday when they wake him up and put him out at two."
Rodney Bewes.
14 Oxford Road, London SW15 2LF.

Iran warning

CORRECT me if I'm wrong, but haven't we known that Iran was sending out death squads (EU to isolate Iran over terrorism, April 11)? Why the sudden outrage over a fact that has been in the public domain even before the Salman Rushdie affair? Those of us who have crossed Tehran have been looking over our shoulders for years; only Rushdie is provided with hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of protection.

The only purpose an EU ban now would serve is to boost the chances of hardline candidates in the forthcoming presidential elections in Iran.
Cherry Mosteshar.
Elsmere, Crick Road, Oxford OX2 6QL.

We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used

Labour troops get restless

AS A Labour Party member actively campaigning in this election, I suddenly realise what is missing compared with previous general elections. We used to have speeches from our leaders to remind us what Labour stood for; to reaffirm Labour principles like protecting the sick and disadvantaged and extending human rights. We looked forward to general elections as occasions for restoring belief and enthusiasm. Now we just have speeches moulded by a political automaton about how Labour will restrain public expenditure, encourage entrepreneurs and consider selling off more national assets. Moral virtue has been supplanted by fiscal rectitude.

Our people notice this. Suddenly I am floored by long-time supporters who ask me why they should vote Labour. They are looking for Tony Blair particularly to remind them of the positive reasons for voting Labour, not simply to keep telling us how bad the other lot are. I understand that Tony is pleased to describe himself as a Christian Socialist. Surely, with what seems to be an unassailable lead in public opinion, he could unbutton himself just a little and play a few hymns for the faithful?
(Dr) David Allan.
63 Sandpit Lane, St Albans, Herts AL1 4EY.

IT IS all very well for Peter Mandelson to complain about tit-for-tat reporting (Hold on tight, Comment page, April 14), but the hawk-like monitoring of news broadcasts for equal airtime and rights-to-reply for the parties forces this style upon reporters. A brave move to underline a positive campaign for Labour and to make sure more than soundbites are heard by the public would be to ditch a glossy election broadcast made by an ad agency in favour of a Labour politician in an old-fashioned "talking head" style broadcast. It's time for more content and less style.
Joe Cassels.
35 Church Street, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1EP.

JOHN Stedman (Letters, April 11) wonders why his local bookshop has sold out of Labour manifestos. Perhaps people think this is the only way of finding out what New Labour really stands for?
Peter Nicklin.
13 Queens Gardens, Benton, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE12 9PL.

A mother defends her addict son

MY son is a heroin addict. For ages he has been telling me that if he can't kick the drug habit he'd rather be dead. He loathes himself and he loathes life. I've watched him fighting to get help, and yes, it has been a fight.

Now, after numerous interviews, he has got himself admitted to a psychiatric hospital for two weeks for detoxification: two weeks to change the habit of 10 years.

I accept that drug addicts may be seen as the least deserving recipients of funds from our hard-pressed NHS. What I question though is why we are prepared to fund an ever-increasing prison population at the cost of between £14,000 and £30,000 per person per year, when it is proven that around 65 per cent of crimes are drug or alcohol related, but we are not prepared to put more resources into addressing the underlying problem.

Perhaps some of the problem is society's need to punish, as a knee-jerk reaction to something we don't understand and are frightened of. But drug addicts are not necessarily half-crazed scum of the earth. Many of them, like my son, are kind, funny, sensitive people, who have had the misfortune to try something (as we tried cigarettes and alcohol to quell our anxieties and to boost our confidence in adolescence) and, like us, are now hooked — but in this case on something that is illegal, so the little help there is is not enough and given grudgingly.

It helps if you are rich: excellent private treatment can be bought for £1,000-plus per week, with a recommended minimum of 14 weeks. Perhaps this just illustrates what a divided society we are.

Incidentally, this letter is written with the full agreement of my husband, a prison governor. We are not ashamed of our son; in fact, we are immensely proud of him.
Janine Woolford.
3 Abson Road, Pucklechurch, Bristol BS17 3RH.

A Country Diary

CHESHIRE: The long awaited Cheshire and Wirral Bird Report for 1995 was amongst the mail awaiting my return from Nepal. A delay of some six months beyond the normal publication date has highlighted one of the basic requirements needed to ensure that a county bird report is produced on time — the prompt submission of observers' records. Despite this setback, the report has been worth the wait, maintaining the high standard of previous years which earned it a place amongst the top eight in the Best Annual Bird Report Award run by the monthly magazine, British Birds for the 1994 issue, and first in the medium membership category. It recalls a long, hot and dry summer, with temperatures regularly exceeding 30C, an August at it driest since 1727, and the concentration of many a birdwatcher being distracted by the appearance of Camberwell Beauties and Yellow-winged Darters. A total of 238 species fills the systematic list, the result of a year's observations by contributors throughout the county, many of whom will relive the disappointment of missing two of the new birds for Cheshire — a Dusky Warbler in November and an Arctic Redpoll in December. However, most of them would have been amongst the crowds that watched the third addition to the county list — a Great White Egret on the Dee marshes in July. There was also a new breeding record in 1995 with confirmation of the first breeding success of that beautiful sawbill, the Goosander, in the east of the county. Not long ago the Goosander bred only in Scotland, but in recent years it has become established in northern England, and gradually moved into Wales and Ireland. Copies of this report are available from D J Steventon 207 Hurdsfield Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2PX, Price £4.95.

J M THOMPSON

Diary

Dan Glaister

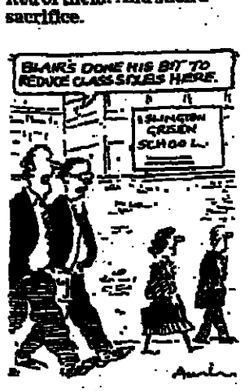
At last, details of Tony Blair's background have emerged. Blair — The Winner, by Theresa Breslin, tells it like it is. Or was. We join young Blair, seen bounding across the *cover of this* political tome, a Mammoth Storybook, outside the supermarket with his mum. Young Blair is about to learn an important lesson, one of the building blocks of the socialism that would stand him in such good stead in later life, just as soon as he'd remembered not to call it socialism. "Blair, give Willis one of your sweets," says his mum as the three of them emerge from the supermarket. Blair is having none of it: "They're all finished now," he says, stuffing the remainder of the packet into his pocket. "Do you remember what I told you about sharing?" asks mum. "That it's better when we share things with each other," responds Blair. "That's a good boy. Now, do you want to share your sweets with your baby brother?" "No," says Blair. "I don't." Will young Blair complete his journey on the long road to socialism? More revelations from Blair — The Winner tomorrow.

NEVER one to turn its back on a good giggle, the Diary feels itself duty bound to return to the Feudal Times and Reactionary Herald, the student paper edited by Neil Hamilton in his Aberystwyth University days. Regular readers will recall that Wee Neil took over the paper — formerly known as the Courier — after losing out in his bid to become president of the student union. But Wee Neil is not one to let a lost election lie. As we rejoin him, there is a groundswell of popular opinion clamouring for the advent of President Hamilton . . . "The Letter Office has had to engage three extra mules and packhorses to take the increased load, as each delivery brings in a new batch of calls from dustmen to duchesses imploring the proprietor of The Feudal Times and Reactionary Herald — selfless, universally loved, public servant No 1, Lord Hamilton — to vest himself with the mantle of office." Ah, the power of irony. Wee Neil proceeds to detail some of the pleas, "some almost pathetic in their hero-worship": "I have no hesitation in recommending Hamilton's balsam which has cured me entirely of the Gout and galloping Dypsomania," writes one correspondent. So that's what the fragrant Christine uses.

A HEARTWARMING article in The Officer — The Independent Magazine for Serving and Retired Officers and Senior NCOs — entitled Why We Are There: The Falklands. Tricky. Is it the scenery? The sheep? The squaddies involved in a recent mess *fracas which saw one in hospital* with a broken ankle are obviously only there to indulge in primitive blood sports. The Officer comes up with a different conclusion: we're there for the money. The Falklanders have suddenly become rich, exploiting both oil and fish in equal measure. "They will soon be able to emulate the Sultan of Brunei and hire their own battalion of Gurkhas," informs The Officer. Quite.

BAD news for the Titanic industry. After the cookery book, the musical and the novel, a hole the size of an iceberg has been blown in the plot of James Cameron's forthcoming film. A report last week suggested that, rather than suffering a 300-foot hole when it hit the iceberg, the speeding liner suffered six small gashes of less than 15 feet. This belated discovery is of little use to the hulking mass of Cameron's film. The most expensive movie ever made at $200 million, it would take months to turn it around and rearrange the grand finale. So the movie will proceed as before, with the iceberg opening a huge hole in its side. The myth is safe.

CALLING St Kilda . . . Come in St Kilda . . . Congratulations to the residents of St Kilda, who have inadvertantly declared themselves an election-free zone. All 29 members of the community have failed to register to vote, saving Western Isles council £5,000. So public-spirited of them. And such a sacrifice.



We want the least worst politicians

Commentary

Hugo Young

NEGATIVE campaigning is the bane of this election. But it is also the essence of our politics in the late 1990s. Every politician must say that he or she is against it, but each becomes a master of its practice.

This mastery includes the very act of railing against it, as Labour has begun the fifth week by doing. By attacking negative campaigning, the party is, of course, indulging in one more burst of it, by piously reminding us that the other side is continuing to engage in it. Everybody does it *almost all* the time.

Negative campaigning comes with another vice, the negative addressing of questions. I can't recall an election when so many questions were so shamelessly evaded. The grand master of this, the champion *summa cum laude*, is turning out to be Gordon Brown. Maybe the title falls upon him because he fronts so many Labour press conferences, and is challenged to remain on-message against the greatest odds.

Yesterday he excelled himself by announcing Labour's undying preference for the positive — but then steadfastly refusing to find anything more positive to say about Labour's plan for the EU common-fisheries policy than to give a reminder that the Tories had made a terrible mess of beef, coupled with the claim that only Labour could be trusted to defend the British interest.

That is the sum total of Labour policy. John Major, making the case for conservation of fish stocks and refusing to pretend quota-hopping was the only issue, sounded, by contrast, dangerously *statesmanlike*.

It isn't fair to say that the positive is entirely absent. On education the parties differ quite profoundly, and in ways that are emblematic of some other differences about society. Tony Blair yesterday set out priorities and methods, at least some of which the Tories disagree with. Education is also where the Lib Dems, for their part, announce their own large, equally symbolic difference about tax. The constitution is also a source of the positive, on both sides of the argument, though outside Scotland it has yet to be put forward with much prophetic intensity.

As ingredients of a positive message, these are pretty limited. Positive campaigns need some kind of vision, and vision needs, above all else, distinctiveness, the very quality which, above all others, the main parties shrink from proclaiming in other than the most cautious, unspecific, uncommitting words.

There is such very large agreement about ends that the occasional disagreements about means seem quite puny. Conservatives and New Labour no longer disagree about capitalism, about redistribution, about tax, about public spending. To a large, though not total, extent, their argument concerns the more effective, more honest, more trustworthy management of the status quo.

If the election were truly a contest between competing visions, it would necessarily have a positive element. There would be something other than fear and loathing to insinuate into the national bloodstream. As it is, these are not only inevitable but, I think, acceptable emotions to be putting to the test.

Since, in the absence of ideology, the contest has become one about trust in people and parties, why should not the least known of these parties, and the leaders who have no record by which to judge them, be subjected to a fiery inquisition that begins by casting doubt on their credibility?

When this goes too far, correcting mechanisms are available. If the Tories tell us yet again that Mr Blair is "cracking up", the electorate is well accustomed to judging such desperate mendacities to be those of the physician who needs to heal himself. But if they say there is something to fear about Labour, that's a reasonable hypothesis which it is Labour's task to rebut convincingly.

> The fear factor is not some dastardly invention. Between two parties whose world-view is so similar it is very nearly all there is to discuss

The fear factor is not some dastardly invention. As between two parties whose world-view is so similar — the devils you do, and do not, know — it is very nearly all there is to discuss. Along with trust, it is the great imponderable which, in the absence of much else, is at the heart of the election.

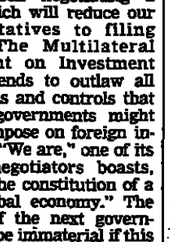
No wonder, therefore, that negative campaigning predominates. Nor is this the work of politicians alone. The voters play their part. Somewhere there may exist an appetite for a new vision, a transformational big picture. But the political market-place seems to be saying to both the Conservative and the Labour leaderships that the desire for novelty is limited.

Negative campaigning plays to what all the opinion polls show to be majority feeling about the role of politics and the calibre of politicians, which is overwhelmingly negative. *Along with* the paucity of visionary ideas, public cynicism presents a possibly insurmountable obstacle to the ambitious crusader.

So, all in all, we get the campaigning we deserve. It fits the limits of reality. What most distinguishes it is a troubling irony, namely the desire on all sides, but especially Labour's, to make no enemies. The lowest common denominator rules, which is the acme of managerial, but the reverse of visionary, politics. Overwhelmingly, the least-bad rather than the best solution is the one people are seeking to identify.

This is not an elevating thought. It's of a piece with the determination to probe, deride and dismantle the other side: the negative campaign, to match the negative opinions about all sides which are already at large. Only after going through that fire can government be permitted to begin.

A charter to let loose the multinationals



George Monbiot

FOR the past four weeks — arguably the past five years — almost every mainstream journalist in Britain has been recruited to the single task of speculating about the election. Entire news networks have been reorganised to cover this event and no other: ITN has destroyed even its canteen in order to create more space.

This is, we are told, an unprecedented exercise in democracy, a political dissection so thorough that no one need enter a polling booth unaware of how his or her vote will affect our political future. But while our stargazers squabble over the portents, none of them seems to have noticed the meteor heading our way.

For the real future of Britain is being discussed not here, but elsewhere, and in the utmost secrecy. The columnists who have so shrilly defended the sovereignty of Parliament from the technocrats in Brussels have so far failed to devote a column inch to the shady deliberations of the EU's bigger brother.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is, in essence, a research establishment, providing the world's richest nations with information about economic trends. Yet, *without debate or consultation*, unannounced, unguided even by national parliaments, it has been negotiating a treaty which will reduce our representatives to filing clerks. The Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) intends to outlaw all restrictions and controls that national governments might wish to impose on foreign investment. "We are," one of its leading negotiators boasts, "writing the constitution of a single global economy." The identity of the next government will be immaterial if this treaty goes ahead.

Investment, ownership, labour, consumer protection and environmental legislation will be wrenched out of our hands. If the OECD gets its way, the British government will never again be permitted to restrain the rapacity of the private sector. Multinational corporations will be exempt from minimum-wage legislation, or from requirements to draw their workforce from the neighbourhood or even the nation. Government attempts *to prevent sudden capital* flight to avert a balance-of-payments crisis will be forbidden. Governments will not be permitted to address foreign ownership of the media; to hold controlling shares in privatised utilities; or to insist that foreign companies whose relocation they have sponsored remain in the country.

The MAI, in conjunction with the World Trade Organisation, could forbid nations from discriminating against, *or even distinguishing* between, sustainably and unsustainably harvested timber, or organic and conventionally toxic food. It could overrule both the Montreal Protocol — which aims to protect the ozone layer — and the Climate Change Convention.

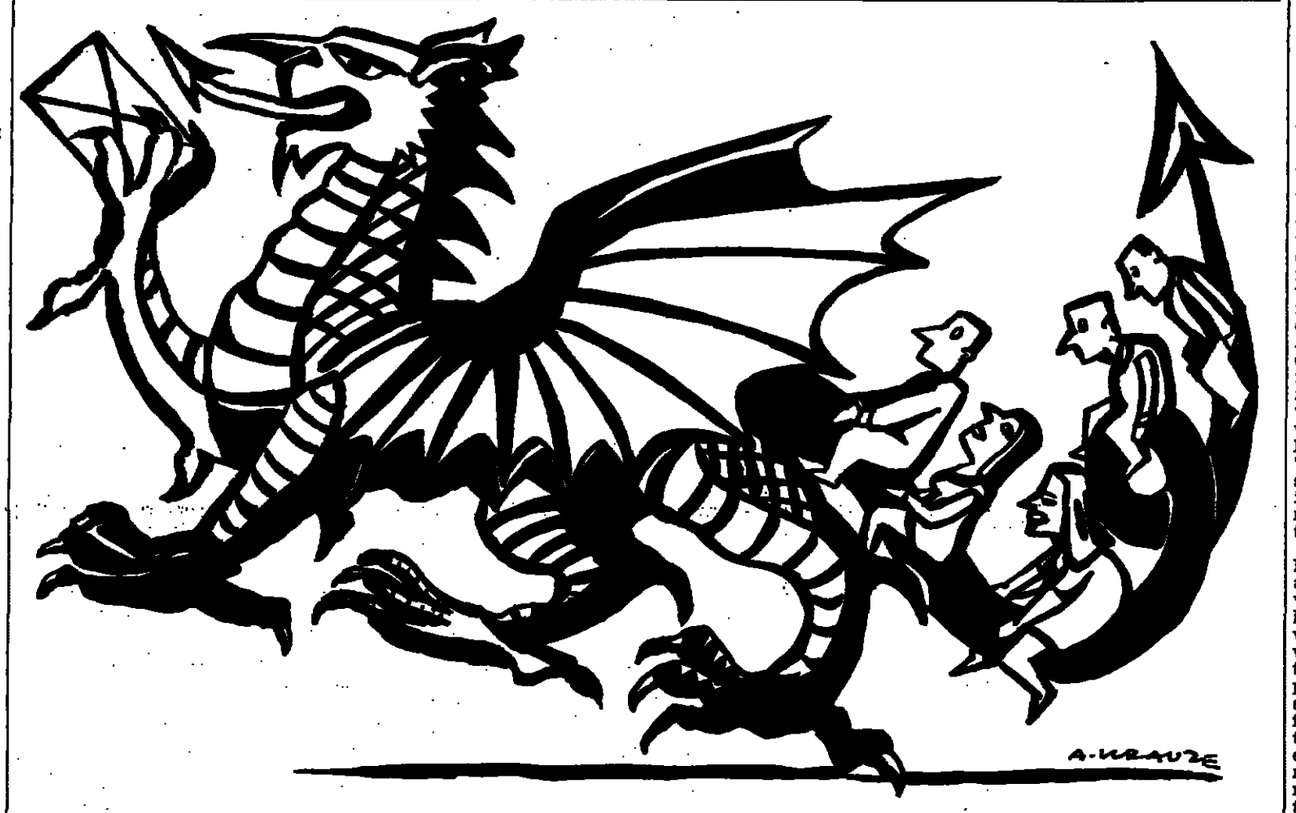
If corporations find a regulation objectionable, they will be entitled to sue a government or local authority at an international tribunal. There will be no right of appeal. But governments, as the Ecologist magazine points out, will have no reciprocal right to sue a corporation on the public's behalf. This is a charter for multinationals. It accords them absolute rights without a shred of responsibility.

If the results are likely to be devastating here, they will be catastrophic in much of the developing world, which, while barred from the negotiations, will be "invited" to sign the treaty. Already, OECD negotiators are talking darkly about membership of the MAI being seen as a "certificate of good conduct", without which a nation could expect no substantial foreign investment. Nations which sign up will find themselves facing punitive sanctions if they refuse to surrender their resources as foreign companies demand.

SO who are these faceless bureaucrats, signing away our sovereignty? Campaigners who have secured an audience with MAI *negotiators* report that the fiercest proponent of the treaty is Britain's Department of Trade and Industry. Without consulting Parliament, while deliberately misleading both the Department of Environment and the ODA about the content of the talks, the DTI has been secretly surrendering our legislative independence.

The game it is playing is filthy. Britain cannot, the DTI tells us, afford special measures to protect its workers, consumers or environment because other countries, with lower standards, would outcompete us. Yet the same department is secretly insisting that such standards be lowered worldwide. With an eye to the future it is engineering, the DTI already behaves as if it is mandated not by Parliament but by corporations.

The negotiators tried to rush the agreement through by May, but the discussions have, for the moment, stalled. We now have the merest twinkling of an opportunity to try to stop this monstrous treaty. If we fail, we may as well forget about the election. When the constitution of the global economy has been agreed, then the task of every parliament on earth will be reduced to mere ratification.



Vote with your hearts

If **Jan Morris** were spin doctor for Plaid Cymru, she'd make the most of devolution: because this election will be the last chance for Wales to live by its own values

IF I were running Plaid Cymru, the Party of Wales, in an election which seems to leave Wales always in the shadow of Scotland, I would adopt as my party slogan something frankly emotional — Put Your Vote Where Your Heart Is, for instance.

Pundits would doubtless sneer at its sentimentality, but in my view such an approach would liberate an immense latent resource of Welsh political power: that is, the disinterested love of Wales for its own sake, the love of an idea, the love of an abstraction. "One man with a dream," the poet said, "shall go forth and conquer a crown": but if you have such a dream — and the Welsh patriots have a grand one — you must tell it for all to hear.

Wales is handicapped by its divided image, in English eyes and sometimes in Welsh ones too. What *is* Wales? Is it the valleys and wild sheep-runs of the countryside? Is is the *anguished* deprivation of the old coal valleys? Is it Cardiff or Caernarfon? Is it those who speak the Welsh language, or those who don't?

Just as English commentators monotonously doubt whether such an apparently dichotomous community can really govern itself, so the Welsh have long been conditioned into supposing that sovereignty is beyond their abilities.

It is "divide and rule" in the subtlest kind, recognisable in many forms: from the custom of writing about North and South Wales, with capital letters, as one writes of North and South Korea, to the motorways which link northern and southern Wales with England, but do not link each other.

But it is artificial. It is true, to my mind, that Welshness is expressed most truly in the Welsh language, and that life in its most absolutely Welsh forms is lived among Welsh-speakers. But the dream itself rides above language, and is instinctive in many hundreds of thousands of Welsh people who have long forgotten *yr hen iaith*. It is a dream of *fellowship which is mocked by cynics* as romantic bosh, but which has remained the foundation of the Welsh identity down the generations.

It is not the fiery passion of the language campaigners, nor the mystic vision of an R S Thomas nor even the lost disciplines of the chapels: it is the homely gift of friendship and equality, and it translates easily into love of country.

> Plaid Cymru should be banging the drum, waving the flag, shouting slogans in both languages, singing the national anthem, not pussy-footing about in the vain pretence that it can on its own bring Wales to fulfilment

Among most Welsh people class means little even now. Memory, habit and allusion bind society still, together with the pleasures of gossip, the intricate connections of long-rooted communities, the feeling of membership, the love of music (whether rock or *penillion*), the shared pride of achievement, and satisfaction in inhabiting what is generally agreed to be one of the most beautiful corners of the planet.

Old Labour famously enlisted this force of emotion, and New Labour does its bourgeois best with it, but neither has cared to define it as a variety of patriotism. Now that devolution is one of the key electoral issues, if I were a spin-doctor of Plaid Cymru I would urgently make the most of it. The Welsh, whether Welsh-speaking or not, really are different from the English. There really is such a thing as a Welsh culture. *Cymru*, the Welsh name for Wales, is generally supposed to signify something like "comrades", and the particular camaraderie of Welshness survives to *this day*.

I speak from grateful experience, and in general Welsh people, if pressed, will admit to these virtues. They have been conditioned down the years to denigrate themselves as provincial hypocrites or romantics — the *huyl* and *hiraeth* syndrome, as the scoffers say; but they know very well the strength of community that still exists in most parts of Wales, and almost all, Welsh-speaking or not, young or old, rich or poor, simple or sophisticated, almost one and all they are proud to be Welsh.

The real dream of Wales, then, is a simple one, and why not? It is just the dream of being itself. Nobody seriously expects Wales to be a rich country, as they expect England to be. Nobody really wants a Welsh Air Force, as the Scottish nationalists apparently want one. Relatively few Welsh people demand complete national separation from the United Kingdom, as I do.

But I am convinced that most of them, in their hearts, want for Wales the right to live by its own particular values. I don't mean living by sloppy nostalgia — a young, modern, entertaining, rather flashy Wales is what I myself aim at. I mean a recognition of the good things that are especial to Wales, and the right of the nation to run its own affairs accordingly.

But not only the English have to be convinced; the Welsh too must be persuaded that their instincts can be as powerfully relevant as any ideology of right or left.

They need the conviction that to be Welsh is not just something to be proud of (nearly every Welsh person is proud of that) but something to be used, as a democratic weapon — that love of country is still a solid, practical political commodity, an emotion just as potent as those more *fashionable* contemporary impulses, greed, envy or resentment. It is still not too late for the leaders of Plaid Cymru (my own party, by the way) to exploit this great energy, but they had better hurry. In Wales, as in Scotland, this general election is almost as much about self-government as it is about the next Westminster parliament, and so far the nationalists have replied with an uncertain call to Labour's devolution proposals.

This is why we hear so little about Welsh aspirations, and so much about Scottish — because the Plaid, in criticising Tony Blair's tepid proposals for a Welsh assembly without tax-raising powers, in hoping to be able to modify them before the time comes, have failed to arouse the people with more charismatic enthusiasms of their own.

They have apparently declined to accept, in short, that this is probably their last chance to bring into play the full power of the Welsh dream. Instead of going on about the limitations of Labour's plans, they should be blatantly seizing the opportunity, grabbing everything they can while the going is good — getting a foot in the door, however narrow the opening.

They should be banging the drum, waving the flag, shouting the slogans in both languages, singing the national anthem, not pussy-footing about in the vain pretence that they can themselves, on *their own, bring Wales* to fulfilment.

Their national duty, as I see it, is to keep the dream alive and hopeful; for if Wales fails to achieve devolution this time around, whether by the re-election of the Tories or by a thumbs-down to the limited autonomy that Labour promises, then very likely it never will.

The Welsh electorate gets less Welsh every year, under the pressure of incomers from the east, and our grand little country will eventually subside into just another English province sustained in illusions of nationhood by a quaint dialect and the tourist-and-heritage industry.

Yet the power is there, only *waiting to be realised*. "Put your vote where your heart is," I would say to Welsh electors now: and when the day of the referendum comes, if (please God) it does, "Say Yes," I would urge them: "For the Love of Wales, Say Yes". And I bet we'd win.

Jan Morris's books include A *Machynlleth Triad*, The Matter of Wales, and The Small Oxford Book of Wales. Her next book, Fifty Years of Europe: An Album (Viking/Penguin), is out in the autumn

Prostex For Men

ONLY 20p PER DAY

FULL MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Thousands of men regularly buy Prostex from *Nature's Best*. We are therefore confident you will be pleased with the product. That's why we offer a full refund, if, after taking it for 3 months, you are unhappy.

Nature's Best Prostex Formula contains a particular combination of substances to provide nutritional support for the prostate.

What makes our product unique is that it contains berries from the Saw Palmetto, together with certain vitamins, minerals and amino acids.

Prostex is one of over 160 products in the *Nature's Best* range of nutritional supplements. We manufacture most of our range ourselves and sell direct to you saving costs and passing the savings onto you.

Orders normally despatched within 24 hours of receipt.

3 MONTH'S SUPPLY FOR ONLY £16.90

180 Capsules – Normal Price £27.75

☎ 01892 552146

Mastercard, Visa, Switch and Delta cardholders

NATURE'S BEST®

The UK's largest mail order supplier of nutritional supplements

Nature's Best Health Products Ltd
1 Lambert's Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3EQ

Please send me 3 months' supply of Prostex at the introductory price of £16.90 (plus £1 to cover post and order processing). I enclose a cheque/PO for £17.90 made payable to Nature's Best Health Products Ltd.
or please debit my Mastercard/Visa or Switch/Delta

Card no

Expiry Date __/__ Switch/Delta Issue Date __/__

Cardholder's Signature

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms

Address

Postcode

Registered in England No. 1518391 GUOS

Richie Riley

Steps into black history

THE HISTORY of black dance in America has been well documented. The history of black dance in Britain has not. However Richie Riley, who has died aged 67, bequeathed an archive which will at least ensure the preservation of the remarkable history of Europe's first black dance company, Les Ballets Negres, founded in London just over 50 years ago. Not that his energies were restricted to his activities as a dedicated archivist, scholar, and advocate. For Riley not only preserved history, he also made history.

Launched into his theatrical career through an imaginative programme of training and performance organised for young Jamaicans by Marcus Garvey, Richie worked in Kingston until he travelled to London to further his study of art and choreography and enrol at the Astafieva School of Dance. And it was in London that he began to make history. On April 30, 1946, Les Ballets Negres gave their premiere performance — at the Twentieth Century Theatre — with Richie as a founding member and leading dancer. And for the next seven years Les Ballets Negres astonished, educated, and entertained audiences throughout Europe with African-Caribbean dance-dramas — reopening major opera houses in the aftermath of the war — and appearing triumphantly in major venues throughout Britain as well as in Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Zurich, Berne, and Geneva. During the course of these tours Richie was awarded the silver medal at the International Dance Festival in Stockholm.

Les Ballets Negres was a company with a cultural vision (of African-Caribbean dance "taking its place alongside Javanese, Indian, and Western ballet") and supported by the cultural luminaries of its day (the management committee included Dame Sybil Thorndike, Thorold Dickinson, Robert Helpmann, Oliver Messel, and Tyrone Guthrie).

> They had a vision of African-Caribbean dance taking its place alongside Javanese, Indian, and Western ballet

Something of the flavour of the company — and the present day relevance of its dramatic repertoire — comes across in the 1986 documentary film *Ballet Black* for which Richie was the primary source and inspiration (broadcast on BBC2, and available today from the Arts Council of England).

But for all their triumphal progress across Europe, Les Ballets Negres was always going to find long-term survival extraordinarily difficult. And, while their contemporaries the Ballet Rambert company — with whom Les Ballets Negres shared equal billing for a two-week season in London in 1950 — have survived, Les Ballets Negres gave their final performance in 1963.

Something of the uphill struggle facing the company may be discerned from their exclusion, at the height of their fame, from the 1951 Festival of Britain on the grounds that this was a festival of British and not colonial culture. But as Richie observed with a smile, when news of their exclusion reached Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, the company was invited to perform in a Dutch festival and received as royal guests.

After Les Ballets Negres, Riley studied at the Slade School of Art and went on to receive recognition as a painter and a sculptor. His works were hung at the Royal Academy and the Commonwealth Institute as well as in galleries and venues open to Caribbean artists. He also continued to work in dance and theatre, directing and choreographing the young performers of Omnibus Dance Theatre Company, and producing and directing African fashion shows.

What held these various projects together was a sense of purpose. His luminous paintings drew attention to the achievements of Mary Seacole or Norman Manley or to the relationship of the breadfruit plant to the history of slavery. His fashion shows, billed as extravaganzas, drew attention not only to the costumes but to the conditions of the costume-makers and to the dilemma of design rights in relation to African textiles.

In his later years he became severely disabled with the loss of both legs. But his enthusiasm for organising and performing remained undimmed. Two years ago he held an audience spellbound at London's South Bank as he talked and danced from his wheelchair. And only four weeks ago he was leading workshops with young dancers whom he described as "Les Ballets Negres of the future".

Nothing Richie Riley did ever made him rich. Yet somewhat magically he always seemed to combine what he wanted to do with what he also recognised needed to be done (and that included travelling to Africa for the purposes of cultural research as well as travelling to Vienna for the purpose of dancing the Viennese waltz). As one of his friends wrote of him: "Richie lived the life of Riley".

Bill Harpe

Richard Theophilus Riley, dancer and artist, born January 10, 1910; died April 6, 1997

Richie Riley . . . founding member of Les Ballets Negres

PHOTOGRAPH: ANGUS McBEAN

Appreciations:
Audrey Harvey, Helene Hanff

Taking action over poverty

AUDREY Harvey *(obituary, April 14)* was a passionate and totally informed advocate of underdog issues. In the late 1950s, I got to know her as a neighbour who galvanised local "Citizens' Advice Bureaux into demanding an often controversial advocacy on behalf of impoverished and desperate people, instead of providing them merely with information about law and administration. She also worked, as I did, in one of the poorer districts of the East End of London.

Not only did she have day-to-day knowledge of how working class people lived. She was one of those calling public attention to the gaps left in the fabric of the welfare state. Brian Abel Smith and I were publishing research pamphlets in the Fabian Society and invited her to write *Casualties of the Welfare State*. This was an immediate success, was powerful in its illustrations of poverty and its searching criticisms of bureaucracy, and is still in print.

A number of voluntary bodies were then begining to convert themselves into being campaigning groups as well. Audrey Harvey became influential in that movement. In 1965 she was a founder member of the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) and in 1969 became the first head of its Citizens' Rights office. In 1965 she also became the first and, for a time, the only woman to sponsor Shelter, and when she left CPAG in the early 1970s she worked for that organisation for many years.

Some of the themes she discussed are as readable and as pertinent today as they were then. She was good at pointing out the general inadequacies of private landlordism, temporary accommodation for the homeless, the quality and amount of public housing, access of poor people to legal aid, local and national appeal machinery, and reception facilities for people claiming means-tested benefits. She was concerned to prevent the growth of poverty and prevent thereby the development of segregated and bad housing and the inevitable "gratuitous violence" which would accompany that development.

As she explained in a research pamphlet written in 1968, families in difficulty rarely require "solemn amateur psychiatry" and often require material help — for example, "just plain cash as a loan". She recognised all the complex arguments for good public housing and income benefits as of right.

She wrote in 1968: "No Labour government, unless positively bent on suicide, can afford to forget that means-tested benefits can never reach more than a small proportion of the poor and that rebates must always be limited in amount anyway. These are unalterable facts. So what selectivists are unconsciously opting for is much greater poverty, much sharper inequality between tenants generally." The thrust of that judgment remains telling and is a legacy we must honour.

Peter Townsend

I DISCOVERED when researching a magazine article on Helene Hanff *(obituary, April 11)* that she had an Aunt Minnie to whom she owed her urge to be a writer. Minnie Hanff (1880-1942) was one of the first women to break into advertising in America, and certainly the first to make the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. As a young "jingle writer" in a New York agency, she was assigned to the account of one of the new cereal health-foods (Kellogg's, Quaker, etc) launched around the turn of the century. Hers was Force. With an artist friend and collaborator, Dorothy Fincken, she invented a jaunty, pig-tailed old boy in 18th-century attire called Sunny Jim. His picture and Minnie's slogan soon graced every Force packet: High o'er the fence leaps Sunny Jim/ Force is the food that raises him.

Children on both sides of the ocean badgered their parents into sending off a box-top and a little cash for a Sunny Jim doll. Lord Callaghan was one of many little boys lumbered for life with the nickname Sunny Jim. But by the thirties, Force was beginning to lag behind its powerful competitors and the company searched for Minnie to coin them a new magic phrase, even advertising in the American Press in her own style: "We've searched the land from Maine to Banff/ Looking for someone named Minnie Hanff."

Alas, Minnie had married, been deserted, and was fully occupied bringing up three children. "She wrote Christian Science hymns, that's all," Helene told me. "But one of her boys became a soap opera writer. Then there was me. I believe that I inherited whatever talents I have from Minnie."

Philip Purser

Sir John Stow

The governor stayed on

SIR JOHN Stow, who has died aged 85, was the last colonial governor of Barbados, and was asked by that country's government to stay on after independence in 1966 as the first governor general. It was testimony to the high regard in which he was held by the new government, opposition and a wide cross-section of the Barbadian community.

In effect, this meant that he stayed on as the Queen's representative when independence came to Barbados after a 300-year relationship with Britain. Stow was posted to the island in 1959, by which time he had spent 25 years in the colonial service.

After Harrow and Cambridge he followed his father into the colonial service and his career was mapped out by alternating stints in Africa and the Caribbean. The first was to Nigeria, where Stow found himself an administrator for the region formerly the German part of Cameroon, and under British mandate.

His first stint in the Caribbean brought out his talent for improvisation. In 1947 he was made administrator of St Lucia and, desperate to be on hand when a fire destroyed large parts of the capital, Castries, he arrived in an American fire-engine borrowed from a US military base.

In the early 1950s he was back in Kenya on a second posting where, for the last six months, he was speaker of the legislative council, and was active in removing barriers betweens Africans and whites.

The rest of his career, from 1955 onwards, was in the Caribbean. He had first-hand experience in preparing a colony for self-government as chief secretary to Jamaica; and after that was achieved in 1957, his next posting was to Barbados.

Stow came to Barbados during the brief life of the West Indies Federation, which came to an end in 1962. He anguished with the rest of the Eastern Caribbean during the negotiations aimed at creating a smaller federation known, rather disparagingly, as the Little Eight (the eight smaller countries of the Federation, less Jamaica and Trinidad).

This, too, came to nothing, partly because of the eternal bickering between the island territories, but mainly because of the reluctance of Britain to commit to continued financing of the seven territories whose annual budgets were balanced by grant-in-aid from the Treasury. Barbados had always been self-financing, even to the extent of paying the salaries of the governor and other officials appointed from London. The then premier, Errol Barrow, pressed for independence.

John Stow's role in all of this was as conciliator. It was his natural bent to try to find ways to bring people together, to seek a compromise and resolve differences. This had been noticeable from the beginning when, to his great dismay, he encountered far greater segregation between the white and black population in Barbados than he had experienced elsewhere. He ensured a mix of races at social functions, and made certain that his consultations with black community leaders of all kinds were given publicity.

However, the run-up to independence in 1966 was not an easy time for him, since the country was divided, not on the issue of independence itself, but on whether continuing efforts at a federation should be made or whether it was time to go it alone. He tried to find a middle road but the difficulty was that he could never appear to be too friendly with Premier Barrow and his colleagues in government on the one hand, or members of the opposition.

Stow's principal role at that time was adviser to the British Government on the matter. It will never be known just what advice was tendered, but the fact remains that Errol Barrow prevailed and Barbados became an independent country within the Commonwealth on November 30, 1966. It was then that Stow was paid the compliment of being asked by Barrow to remain as the Queen's representative until his retirement in May 1967.

Peter Morgan

John Montague Stow, colonial administrator and diplomat; born October 3, 1911; died March 16, 1997

Independence day . . . Sir John Stow with British Foreign Secretary George Brown in 1966

Michael Clarke

Coal and cures

MICHAEL Clarke, who has died aged 68, was a radical scientist who influenced thinking about coal mining — and homeopathy. As chief geologist for the National Coal Board he made it a world leader in seismic technology. As a homeopath he researched into bio-physics, hypothesing how homeopathic remedies might be effective on a quantum electrodynamic level.

He was born in London and graduated from London University with a degree in geology, with physics and mathematics. He worked in exploration in the Middle East, India and Pakistan before joining the NCB, becoming chief geologist in 1974. At the time, when mines hit geological faults the result was lost production and ultimately premature closure. He devised a system to determine the likelihood of mining being interrupted by faults, combining the talents of geologists and engineers.

He carried out the world's first seismic coal survey during the planning of Yorkshire's Selby mine, and said the mine would fail as it was oriented. The plan was rotated by 45 degrees. A colleague estimated that without the intervention the mine would never have made a profit, and would have been closed.

Clarke also advised Brussels on coal mining and was director of the International Energy Agency's World Coal Reserves and Resources Data Bank. During the 1970s he allied with another NCB radical, Fritz Schumacher — author of *Small is Beautiful* — in trying to persuade the government that coal was a better investment than nuclear fuel, whose risks were unknown and therefore incalculable. Their argument was later validated by City risk analysts when nuclear power was privatised.

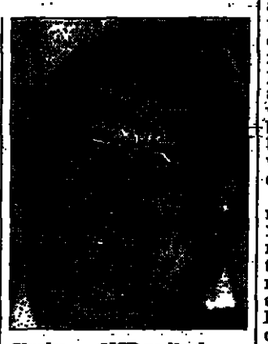
He also campaigned for investment in clean-burn power stations and to develop new technology for deep mining. Instead the NCB took only the best quality, most easily accessible coal, and left the rest. Clarke was overruled when he complained that this would result in coal being left unmined in pits that it would never be economical to reopen; coal which might be needed in generations to come. After a heart attack he was downgraded and in 1984 left British Coal. He became an independent consultant, and applied his green socialism in public work.

After a motorcycle accident he was told that his leg would be permanently swollen, but following homeopathic treatment the injury mended. He trained as a homeopath and went into practice.

He is survived by his wife Sarah, three sons, two daughters, and two former wives.

Roger Harrabin

Michael Clarke, scientist, born November 12, 1928; died January 3, 1997



Clarke . . . NCB radical

Birthdays

Lord (Jeffrey) Archer, novelist, 57; **Tony Calvert**, founder, Terrence Higgins Trust, 41; **Claudia Cardinale**, actress, 59; **Dave Edmunds**, rock guitarist, 53; **Eva Figes**, writer, 65; **Samantha Fox**, model and singer, 31; **John Grigg**, chairman, London Library, 73; **Sir Tim Lankester**, economist, 55; **John Lloyd**, journalist, 51; **Sir Neville Marriner**, conductor, 73; **David Omand**, director, GCHQ, 50; **Alan Plater**, screenwriter, 62; **Earl Russell**, historian, 60; **Sir Maurice Shock**, historian, 71; **Emma Thompson**, actress, 38; **Meriol Trevor**, novelist and biographer, 79; **Marty Wilde**, former rock singer, 58.

Death Notices

CAMPBELL, Mary. In Edinburgh on 8th April 1997 on her 81st birthday. Mary Campbell of 44 Marchmont Crescent, wife of the late Duncan (died 1981), mother of Andrew, Colin and Frances, grandmother of Jeanie, Alec and Catherine. Always remembered with love and incredulity by friends and relations in Lincoln, Jamaica, Sheffield, Ghana, Dalmally, Edinburgh and elsewhere. Active campaigner for peace and tolerance in U.K., Nicaragua, Persian Gulf and the World. Donations to The Campaign against the Arms Trade, 11 Goodwin Street, Finsbury Park, London N4 3HQ.

DADOMO, Giovanni, died after a short illness on 8 April. Flowers to Francis Undertakers, 45 Lambs Conduit Street, WC1. Funeral 10am Thursday 17th April at Arnos Grove. For details, phone Sally on 0171 782 7183.

FREEMAN, Dudley Asher. Suddenly on 7th April 1997. Aged 74. Funeral and committal at 3.30pm on Thursday 17th April at Lewisham Crematorium. No flowers by request.

HOLY, Ladislav, Professor of Social Anthropology, University of St. Andrews, on 13th April 1997. Peacefully at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee after a long illness. Dearly loved husband of Kate and stepfather of Ruth and Tom. Funeral service in Kingsbarns Parish Church on Friday, April 18th at 1pm, thereafter to Kingsbarns Cemetery at approx. 1.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to The Prostate Cancer Charity.

JONES, Alun, died on 8 April aged 45, suddenly but not unexpectedly, after a long fight. Cremation will take place on Friday 18 April, 3.30pm, Manor Park Crematorium, Forest Gate. For information contact A Bennett & Sons on 0181 599 3412 or his wife Michelle on 0181 820 1851.

In Memoriam

Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worth while. Remembering the lovely George Arthurs. Reading. 4.9.46 to 15.4.93.

Memorial Services

SAMUEL, Raphael. A memorial celebration of Raphael's life will be held at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London on 26th April. Speakers from 3pm. Drink, food and music from 5pm.

To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4129 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

Jackdaw

Sisters doing it

A FEW months ago, Batul Ebrahami, 18, was a high school student in Tehran. The daughter of a shop keeper, she was relatively well off but enormously frustrated with the dictates of the Islamic fundamentalists who rule Iran. "Women were not allowed to do anything productive," she complains.

After two arrests by Iran's ubiquitous secret police for openly complaining about the mullahs, Ebrahami fled, but not to Europe or the US. Today she resides in a dusty camp in Iraq, a solider in one of the most unusual and little known military forces in the world. The National Liberation Army (NLA) of Iran is 30,000 strong, fully armoured and ready at any moment to do battle. Some 35 per cent of its soliders are women, as are 70 per cent of its officers. The troops wear no insignia of rank and receive no pay. They have taken a vow to remain celibate until Iran is freed. And all express near fanatical loyalty to the woman they hope to install as the next president of Iran: Maryam Rajavi.

Time on the rebel faction which is proving to be thorn in Tehran's side.

Quackdown

The state of Tennessee recently declared that rubber-duck races must be classified, like bingo games and raffles, as illegal lotteries. State charities have used these races, which aren't illegal anywhere else, for years. Participants pay $5 or so to "adopt" a numbered duck; a flock is released on a river; you win a prize if your duck outraces the rest, and the profits go to charity. The "quackdown" means bad news for outfits like the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Knoxville, which raised $117,000 with its duck race last year. Despite the setback, the 1997 event is still tentatively scheduled for April 19 — Knox County may seek a restraining order against the state on the club's behalf, as part of a larger legal challenge.

School fair organisers rest assured: "The duck ain't dead," says club president, John Lee, in the New York Times magazine. "He may have been winged, but he ain't dead."

Hello Jerry

George Wayne: Jerry, just let me ask you this question: Why do you think so many Englishmen are such effete heterosexuals?

Jerry Hall: I don't know. Maybe it's the school system. Or maybe it's in their genes.

GW: But Jerry, you must know. After all you've been married to one of the biggest straight poofs GW has ever seen.

JH: [Laughs] I don't know. Maybe Englishmen are more in touch with their feminine side.

GW: I hear the only reason you forgive Mick's indiscretions is that every time he's caught with his panties down he has to buy you a bigger ruby than the last one.

JH: Where did you read that, the *National Enquirer*?

GW: No darling, it was just something I thought of actually.

JH: I don't want to talk about my personal life.

GW: But Jerry, you must talk about how you keep the faith!

JH: I've got to go now...

Gw: You're not going to talk about why you love your husband and won't divorce him?

JH: I think that's enough.

GW: Jerry, don't hang up!

JH: No, no way man. I wish you luck. Bye.

GW: Jerry! Jerry! Keep the faith, Jerry! Don't divorce Mick, even if he gets caught with his panties down again!

JH: [Hangs up the telephone.]

George Wayne of Vanity Fair phones Jerry Hall to ask the Texan glamazon about her marriage to Mick and how she intends to tame him.

Dressed to win

Norma: I'd like to see Norma Major wearing a long swirl-print sari wrap with her hair in a top knot, because John Major wore a turban to Pakistan. It would show young people that she understands fashion's current flirtation with the East.

Cherie: For Cherie, a long blue skirt made from shell suit material with side vents and chevron stripes would be perfect, especially with a feathered haircut. The look would show her solidarity with Tony Blair's attempt to woo younger voters by saying he loves the band Oasis. But she would need to understand Red or Dead's ironic concept — that ugly is beautiful.

Wayne Hemmingway, co-founder of Red or Dead, dresses Norma and Cherie in Woman's Journal.

Italy's goal

WHILE Chelsea's trio of Roberto di Matteo, Gianfranco Zola and Gianluca Vialli are aiming to be the first Italians to play in an FA Cup final, boss Rud Gullit has to confine himself to the touchline for the rest of the season after badly tearing ankle ligaments.

As well as needing crutches, he's also been advised to have his famous dreadlocks trimmed. Tony Parkes, holding the reins at Blackburn until Roy Hodgson's arrival, accused the Chelsea manager of not being able to see properly after he'd said Rovers had played only for a draw in a recent premiership match.

Cup fever reaches Channel 4's Football Italia magazine.

Football Italia . . . no score

Playing away

THERE has been a recent suggestion (with which I disagree) that stealing from supermarkets is morally acceptable, provided the market is sufficiently super. A little bit here, a little bit there, but from something big.

It brings a whole new dimension to the term "self service" — the take-away and, if you want to get theological about it "God helps those who help themselves."

The argument is ancient. If the loaf is large, who'll miss a crumb? The argument is also specious. It sounds reasonable, but, in fact, is shallow.

When your professional burglar is caught, his response is taken from the Burglar's Phrase Book: A Guide to Good Housebreaking. The first line of the defence is to deny all knowledge of the incident. Safeway? What's a Safeway? Distance helps. "I was watching Everton that day and they woz playing away."

Bishop Augustine Harris may be unpopular with Everton fans following his commentary in Catholic Pictorial

An old cardy

Ray Davies wrote Dedicated Follower of Fashion because someone insulted an old cardigan he was particularly fond of. Guests at a party in early 1966 included some ultra-trendy fashion designers who were making fun of the old jumper Davies was wearing . . . This led to a heated argument about whether sartorial elegance matters more than the type of person you are beneath the surface.

The truth about that Kinks' song according to Q magazine.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713-4366; write Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Hannah Pool

Co-op digs in for battle, page 12

Tomorrow: BT shareholders have their say

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian

Economic hangover for Kohl in Hanover

THE German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, and Prince Philip yesterday teamed up to open the British pavilion at the Hanover Fair which runs throughout this week, *writes Mark Milner*.

The fair, which is expected to attract more than 7000 exhibitors from 70 countries, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The first was held in an abandoned munitions factory in 1947.

The fair has become a showcase of German technical and industrial muscle and the mood is likely to be upbeat. But the economic background remains sombre.

Unemployment is above 4 million. Although the German economy is likely to show growth this year, most strongly in the second half, there is little optimism that this will significantly reduce the length of the country's dole queues — which are at record post-war levels.

PHOTOGRAPH: ERHARD HEIDENREICH

The number of British households with no one working is going up, not down, say researchers

Tory dole figures 'flawed'

Larry Elliott and Richard Thomas

CLAIMS by the Conservatives that tumbling unemployment is eating into the hard core of Britain's workless families are based on flawed government data, according to a report to be released today.

Figures from the Employment Policy Institute show that, despite a fall of more than 1 million in the official jobless count, the proportion of households without a single wage earner has risen to almost one in five. The UK's figures are the worst in Europe.

Treasury secretary William Waldegrave argued two months ago that "the reduction in unemployment is helping to reduce the number of households where no one is in work — by over 300,000 over the last three years". Using data from the Office for National Statistics, the chief secretary said that Britain's flexible labour market was delivering success in tackling structural unemployment.

But a new analysis by the EPI shows that Mr Waldegrave's claim was based on figures which excluded all households with a retired person, even those which also had people of working age who were on the dole.

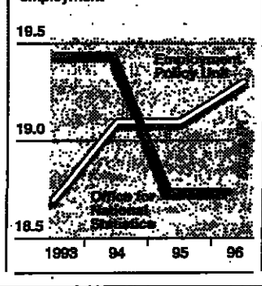
The Institute's research backs Labour arguments that the improvement in job prospects since the end of the recession has left the poorest families behind, and will support the party's case for a "welfare to work" policy for the long-term unemployed.

Labour will use the plight of families bypassed by the economic recovery to counter Conservative triumphalism over falling unemployment when the latest jobs figures are released tomorrow.

The report's authors, Paul Gregg and Jonathan Wadsworth from the London School of Economics, said the divide between "work-rich" and "work-poor" households was becoming "more and more acute". The recovery "has left the excluded workless families behind. Our children are increasingly growing up in families with no one in work."

Jobless claims

% of households with no one in employment



According to the report, the number of households without a wage earner has risen from 17.5 per cent when the recovery began in 1992 to 19.3 per cent last year. Only in recent months has there been any improvement in the figures — and then only a modest one.

By the autumn of 1996 the number of non-pensioner households with no one working was 3.25 million, just 80,000 down on the peak reached in late 1995. "The jobs recovery has not reached the most needy families," the EPI report concludes.

It added that, by international standards, Britain's concentrated unemployment was stubbornly high. Just 8 per cent of households in Germany, France and Italy have no breadwinner. In Spain, where the unemployment rate is more than 20 per cent, 13 per cent of households are receiving no wage.

"Britain is woefully the worst performing country of all those available for comparison," the study said.

The EPI, which has been conducting an audit of the labour market for the past two years, became suspicious of the ONS figures used by Mr Waldegrave when they appeared to show a big fall in the number of workless households between 1994 and 1995. It found that the ONS had assigned an incorrect code to families with both retired and non-retired adults, resulting in them being excluded from the tally of jobless families.

Once this distortion was stripped out of the figures, there was actually a slight rise in workless households between the two years.

The EPI report coincides with a fresh attack on the Government's unemployment figures by the Royal Statistical Society (RSS). Professor Adrian Smith, the president of the RSS, said yesterday: "Public concern over the validity of the monthly unemployment statistics will not go away until the next government takes steps to improve the basis of the figures." Professor Smith said the Jobseekers Allowance was distorting the dole queue count, a fact which he said was being ignored by ministers.

Notebook

Home truths on interest rates

Edited by Alex Brummer

THE April producer prices data send a clear message that for the moment at least inflation pressures are non-existent. This is certain to give comfort to the growing section of City opinion which believes that a base rate rise immediately after the election can be avoided.

Among the surest bets on the UK markets has been that the authorities will move after the election to snuff out the incipient consumer boom. The three-month sterling contract has implied interest rates of 6.6 per cent by June and 7.1 per cent by year end. The authorities have argued consistently that if the opportunity had been taken for a small base rate rise to 6.25 per cent earlier this year, it might have been possible to avoid a more solid base rate rise later on, allowing the pound to be knocked off its recent highs against the German mark.

The producer prices data showing input prices in deflationary territory and output prices growing at just one per cent a year may give policymakers a breather.

But they will not be able to ignore the domestic demand picture. Retail sales are growing at 4 per cent per annum, consumer borrowing is at record levels and the housing market strong. The unemployment count, as new figures this week will demonstrate, is falling sharply, encouraging higher earnings. On top of this potent mix there is the prospect of £20 billion of building society payouts cascading through the economy.

With the manufacturing sector under serious competitive pressure, as a result of the over-valuation of sterling, the economy must be regarded as seriously unbalanced. The risk with an interest rate increase is that, as in the US, it might simply fuel the rise in the currency in anticipation of more, rather than cool it off.

But interest rate policy is never the only option available to the Government. Although tomorrow's figures for public sector borrowing may be better than expected, they are still not improving fast enough for an economy in its fifth year of recovery. The next Chancellor should take the opportunity to deal with the public finances early on and in the process mitigate the need for larger than necessary base rate rises which may only serve to pump up sterling. In public Labour confines its June budget agenda to the windfall tax: but there is an increasing conviction that it will do more than that.

The insurance/pension funds industry is bracing itself for a full-blooded assault on advanced corporation tax credits. The remaining tax reliefs for higher rate tax payers, are another obvious target for a revenue hungry administration.

City scramble

THE undertaking in Labour's business manifesto to streamline City regulation by giving the Securities Investment Board direct responsibility for policing the 1986 financial services act is prompting a mighty scramble for the right to succeed Sir Andrew Large as chairman of the empowered SIB. Phillip Thorpe of Imro hopes to underpin his claims for the job by meting out some heavy punishments to Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, over its failures in the costly Peter Young affair. Mr Thorpe's firm actions over MGAM and in the pensions mis-selling scandal are seen as outshining those of another would-be contender, Personal Investment Authority chief Colette Bowe.

Others are quietly singing the praises of Richard Farrant of the Securities and Futures Authority whose quiet pursuit of the Barings managers and the copper scandal has won him some friends in Labour's Treasury team. Also determined not to be overlooked is Andrew Winkler, chief executive of SIB.

It may be, of course, that Labour will eschew all of these obvious candidates and go for a grander non-executive chairman from among its important business supporters.

Phoning home

WHAT goes around on the telephone dial eventually comes around again. Remember M for MAIda Vale (Ray Milland and Grace Kelly)? Remember Butterfield 8 (Elizabeth Taylor)? Not to mention MANsion House, CLErkenwell and, of course, FLEeet Street? Thirty years after the curse of all-figure dialling, letters and numbers are back; new telephones carry letters next to the digits and, later this year, "convenience dialling" will get a BT marketing push.

The old exchanges won't return, but, according to Telecom Business Names, a company that has built up a bank of "hot names", firms will be paying big for numbers that translate into TAXICAB, PIZZAS or EUROSTAR.

Or will they? The bad news is that anyone who has hung on to a pre-1960s telephone will find their number/letter combinations don't match those on the new sets. Steam-driven GPO machines exclude Q and Z, and leave the O for the zero. By contrast, a BT Relate set has the O on 6 (along with M and N) and places Q and Z on the zero.

The worse news is that even the modern dials don't agree. The BT Converse set has nothing on the zero, puts the Q on the 7, with the P, R and S, and has the Z on the 9, with the W,X and Y.

Presumably, BT will have all this sorted out before the "convenience dialling" campaign. Otherwise, someone, somewhere, won't be getting a phone call from you.

Albania 'shows risk to reforms'

Mark Milner
Deputy Financial Editor

CENTRAL and eastern Europe is unlikely to see the return of a command economy but events in Albania showed the "frightening speed" with which the reform process could unravel, according to Jacques de Larosière, the president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Speaking at the opening of the bank's annual meeting in London yesterday, Mr de Larosière said the picture in the region was "generally positive".

"In most of the countries ... state control of the economy, which took decades to impose under authoritarian regimes, has been dismantled in less than six years by the actions of ordinary people and governments."

The EBRD was set up in the wake of the collapse of communist governments in central and eastern Europe to help successor regimes make the transition from centrally planned to market economies.

Yesterday Mr de Larosière said that progress had been made in areas such as price and trade liberalisation; privatisation, especially among small and medium-sized companies; institution-building; and in bringing down inflation.

A number of economies were now growing at about 4 to 5 per cent a year and there were signs that others had turned the corner.

But he warned that there was no room for complacency. "Albania is a tragic illustration of how hard-won progress can be lost with frightening speed. The situation in Albania had been promising ... yet the economy, the political system and civil society itself have collapsed into financial disaster because the authorities failed to regulate and supervise non-banking institutions."

NatWest staff leader seeks election to board

Ian King

RORY MURPHY, general secretary of the NatWest Staff Association, is to stand for election to the bank's board of directors.

In an unusual move, Mr Murphy has written to his members — many of them shareholders — urging them to nominate him as their proxy at NatWest's annual meeting a week today.

Mr Murphy is highlighting the recent £90 million derivatives losses at NatWest Markets. He wants the bank's group profit-related pay scheme to be insulated from these.

Mr Murphy, who has pledged to contribute any payments or fees resulting from board membership to the union, said he was making the move to give NatWest staff greater influence over salaries and safeguard the value of pensions; it was also to demonstrate "a commitment to partnership" and improve the bank's corporate governance.

He added: "At a time when banking is undergoing unprecedented change, my election would send a clear signal that the group is prepared to work together with its staff and representatives in achieving this change.

"No one has a greater interest in the future of the group than its staff, and yet in the hierarchy of stakeholders, it always seems to be that staff concerns get the least priority."

In response, a spokesman for NatWest said: "Rory Murphy has every right to stand for election, and his nomination is being dealt with in the usual manner."

Although the spokesman refused to say whether the board would be campaigning against Mr Murphy's election, he pointed out that Mr Murphy was only eligible to replace one of the six directors due for re-election, who include finance director Richard Delbridge.

But he added: "As far as our board is concerned, it supports all of the directors standing for re-election."

Meanwhile, NatWest also played down reports in the Wall Street Journal that there could be more than one trader involved in the £90 million derivatives losses other than Kyriacos Papouis.

The paper speculated that losses not previously associated with Mr Papouis could have been included in the £90 million that NatWest has provided for.

But NatWest said there was "nothing new" in the report, and that it would not give any update on the internal investigation at NatWest Markets before next week's meeting.

Virgin names S African partners in Sun Air bid

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

RICHARD Branson's Virgin Atlantic Airways yesterday named a local consortium of business partners in its bid for Sun Air, a regional South African airline being sold by the Mandela government for about £28 million.

The sale, which is expected to be completed this year, forms part of the government's plan to sell all or part of companies which are uncompetitive and whose sale will increase black participation in the economy.

Virgin said that its local partners were members of a group called Bhekilanga, which includes Sarhwu, the investment arm of the South African Railway and Harbour Workers' Union which represents about 50,000 workers.

Bhekilanga takes in a group *formed to give women a bigger* stake in the economy and an organisation called Nafoc North West, which speaks for disadvantaged black people.

Sandile Zungu, Bhekilanga's chairman, said the group hoped to give Sun Air staff equity ownership in the airline. "Virgin will bring healthy competition and innovation to the domestic airline market and open up international growth opportunities," he said.

Virgin has been operating in South Africa since last year. The South African government had set a deadline of April 10 for submission of pre-qualification bidders. It is separately exploring the sale of a stake in South African Airways, which is facing increased competition from international airlines, including Virgin Atlantic.

● Continental Airlines said it could become the next big US airline to agree to buy planes exclusively from Boeing, which would be a big blow to the European consortium, Airbus Industrie.

Gatwick to be put on fast track

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

THE 30-mile train journey between London Victoria and Gatwick could take less than 25 minutes as a result of a £100 million order for eight new trains placed yesterday by Gatwick Express.

GEC Alsthom, the Anglo-French industrial group, fought off opposition from 20 international companies to win the order, which will help secure 1,800 jobs at its Washwood Heath factory near Birmingham.

The first of the luxury trains, with eight coaches each, will be delivered in December 1998, and the entire fleet will be in service by May 1999. The trains will replace the line's 24-year-old fleet, which covers the journey in about 30 minutes.

New undercarriages will create a more comfortable and quieter ride, and interior glazing will reduce noise in the carriages.

Gatwick Express is run by the bus company National Express and is the only one of the 25 passenger franchises operating with no government subsidy.

The managing director of Gatwick Express, Mac Macintosh, said the on-board service would be more like an airline experience than a traditional train journey.

There would be three standards of travel on the new trains, and accommodation for the disabled.

Hi-tech Paris firm heads exodus to Britain

PAUL WEBSTER tells why the UK is more beneficial for French business

IN WHAT seems like a backhanded compliment to Tony Blair, 15 expanding French businesses have decided that life under a Labour government could be far more profitable than under French conservatism because of lower wage and tax bills.

After months of weighing up the advantages of the British political and commercial scene, the firms are to transfer their headquarters to Britain and register as limited companies to take advantage of lower social security charges and other levies.

To rub home their belief that Labour could be as generous to employers as John Major's Conservatives, the first business, Info Elec, will open its new headquarters in Ashford, Kent, just hours before the British electorate goes to the polls.

Info Elec, a hi-tech Paris company with 25 staff, was the founder member of an association called France Libre ... d'entreprendre — a title inspired by Charles de Gaulle's London exile with the added reference to enterprise culture.

The fiercely free-market company chairman, Olivier Cadic, first threatened last September to move the firm, which specialises in films for printed circuits, in the hope that France's Gaullist-led government would react by going easier on small and medium-sized firms.

A spokesman for the association, Bernard Garrigou Torchy, who claims family origins in Nottingham, said that medium-sized business profits could multiply several times if they took advantage of British social chapter-free conditions.

"Info Elec estimated that its profit would have been four times greater if it had not been held down by French social security charges and business taxes," he said. "In 1995, the profit was Fr400,000 [nearly $44,000]. If the firm had been operating under British conditions the gain would have been Fr1.5 million."

Other companies joining the transfer will announce their names and future locations at a joint press conference next week, but all seem to have discounted the disadvantages of a strong pound and doubts over a single currency. Most are ready to settle in the South-east to keep in contact with their French markets and take advantage of the Eurotunnel.

They will take their French staff with them but, with salary bills estimated at 20 to 30 per cent lower than in France, local recruitment could follow.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.018	France 9.14	Italy 2,704	Singapore 2.284
Austria 19.16	Germany 2.72	Malta 0.608	South Africa 7.03
Belgium 56.16	Greece 430.00	Netherlands 3.047	Spain 228.00
Canada 2.219	Hong Kong 12.25	New Zealand 2.275	Sweden 12.18
Cyprus 0.808	India 58.26	Norway 11.025	Switzerland 2.318
Denmark 10.445	Ireland 1.019	Portugal 271.85	Turkey 206,660
Finland 8.207	Israel 5.52	Saudi Arabia 6.00	USA 1.582

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

CWS chief warns off predator Regan but says assets could be sold as part of plan to boost profitability

'Bribes' will not win Co-op

Roger Cowe

GRAHAM Melmoth, chief executive of the CWS co-operative empire, hit out yesterday at Andrew Regan, the young entrepreneur who is trying to buy CWS, but signalled that some CWS assets could eventually be for sale.

Mr Melmoth said Mr Regan, head of Lanica Trust, had no hope of persuading CWS directors or a majority of members to sell significant parts of the group. He said cash hand-outs would not work. "He doesn't stand a hope in hell of getting anywhere," Mr Melmoth said. "What's £500 [for each member] in the light of 150 years of history? We will not collapse like a building society or insurer just because somebody waves a cheque book."

He was talking after reporting disappointing financial results which will give ammunition to critics. In spite of a strong performance from the Co-op Bank, a CWS subsidiary, total profits fell from £78 million to £68 million. This was partly due to losses on sales of assets, but also to a poor performance from the core food-retailing operation.

Excluding the North Eastern Co-op, which is reported separately, food sales grew by 2 per cent to £1.054 billion, but that included inflation and failed to keep up with store expansion. Profits on these sales fell from £43 million to £37 million, including the £3 million cost of a new dividend loyalty scheme, which was introduced in Northern Ireland and has spread to Scotland.

Mr Melmoth said the main reason for the fall was Tesco's acquisition of William Low, which had put the co-op under severe pressure in Scotland. But he made clear his determination to improve the performance of CWS while retaining its co-operative philosophy. He added: "Co-operative values are of no account unless we can improve the bottom-line performance. I am going to spend a fair chunk of 1997 on a full review of all the businesses."

He said some sales might then take place, but they would not involve Mr Regan, who previously bought food manufacturing companies from the CWS then sold them on to the food group, Hillsdown. Mr Melmoth said: "Mr Regan is not an operator. He is clearly somebody who wants to take a turn on the assets."

Mr Melmoth signalled that the engineering and motor businesses might be sold once they had been consolidated, and that in the long-term the CWS might devote a smaller share of its resources to food retailing, though it would remain a core business as it was part of the CWS heritage.

He plans to improve profitability by focusing on smaller supermarkets and convenience stores, which will probably lead to the sale of some superstores. And he aims to capitalise on the co-op image by bringing greater cohesion to the businesses, including funeral services and travel agencies.

He reiterated his belief in the need for all co-op retailers to come together despite opposition to full merger between CWS and CRS, the separate but similar organisation, which reports its financial results in a couple of weeks. Mr Regan, who is believed to have financial backing from Hambros Bank, is rumoured to be planning a formal offer or an approach to Co-op members in the next couple of weeks.

The CWS annual meeting will take place in Manchester on May 17 and is expected to consider a resolution backing the CWS board's refusal to hold talks with Mr Regan.

Store's big divi shows small is beautiful

AWAY from the City tremors which surrounded yesterday's 15 per cent profits slither at the CWS, one of Britain's last independent co-operative societies was celebrating the success of its cut-price baked beans promotion, *writes Martyn Halsall.*

Coniston Co-operative Society, above, with assistant manager Jackie Cross, occupies the same stone and slate building constructed shortly after its foundation. Its workforce of 10 survived modernisation, as counters gave way to a mini-supermarket.

Some 80 per cent of its goods are purchased from the CWS but there the links end. Rows over boardroom salaries, now dogging the Manchester-based CWS giant, are unknown in Coniston, where the eight directors are not paid for attending monthly meetings.

Coniston awarded its 700 members a 3p in-the-pound "divi" last year — up 50 per cent on the previous year. Other perks include a free delivery service.

Under the slogan "Small can be very special at Coniston Co-op", the store reduced prices on 150 products in March. The store's manager, Richard O'Reardon, expects reductions will stay on about 25 products when the campaign ends shortly. Small tins of baked beans and half bottles of whisky proved particular favourites, possibly reflecting the staple diet of campers and backpackers who flood the Lake District.

The small store is planning to celebrate its centenary next year, if it can discover the precise date of its foundation. "Unfortunately the minute books are missing for that period. There was a flood, and they were stored in the wrong place," confessed Mr O'Reardon.

PHOTOGRAPH: ERIC WHITEHEAD

Food group pauses for digestion

OUTLOOK/ABF chairman fails to unveil last hurrah, reports IAN KING

THE big question everyone wanted Associated British Foods to answer yesterday was the one it skirted, namely what it proposes doing with its estimated £1.5 billion cash pile.

Already flush with cash, ABF now has the stuff coming out of its ears following last month's £630 million sale of its Irish supermarkets businesses to Tesco.

At the time, there was speculation that chairman Garry Weston, 70 this month, planned to splash out on a "last hurrah", and there remains little doubt he still has his heart set on a big deal.

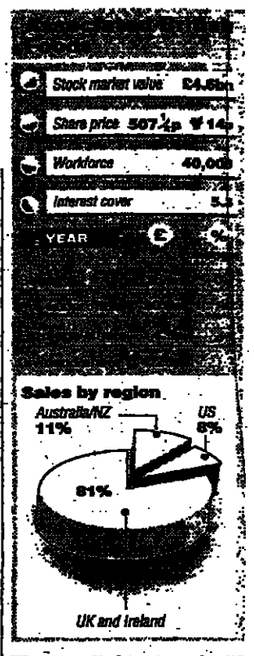
Excitement that a big announcement was imminent intensified last week, after ABF brought forward its results by a fortnight. It even led to rises in the share prices of companies thought to be in ABF's sights, such as sugar specialist Tate & Lyle and Hillsdown Holdings, the food conglomerate.

Instead, there was nothing in ABF's statement to indicate what may be brewing, and analysts had to content themselves with an unspectacular set of figures.

Given that ABF's core activity is in the mature field of food manufacturing — its brands include names such as Sunblest, Kingsmill and Allinson's bread, Silver Spoon sugar, Twinings tea and Burton's biscuits — and that food inflation has been almost non-existent in recent months, the company has done well to raise profits, even if it was only by a mere 1.5 per cent.

The results would probably have been better had ABF not been hit by the effects of the strong pound, which wiped £11 million off the bottom line mainly due to realignment of the "green pound", the currency adjustment used by the EU in agricultural markets, although there was also evidence export margins have been squeezed.

There were also problems in several divisions, notably AB Nutrition, where profits fell by a quarter due to competition from cheaper imports, and Allied Bakeries, which experienced what Mr Weston called "extremely difficult trading conditions".



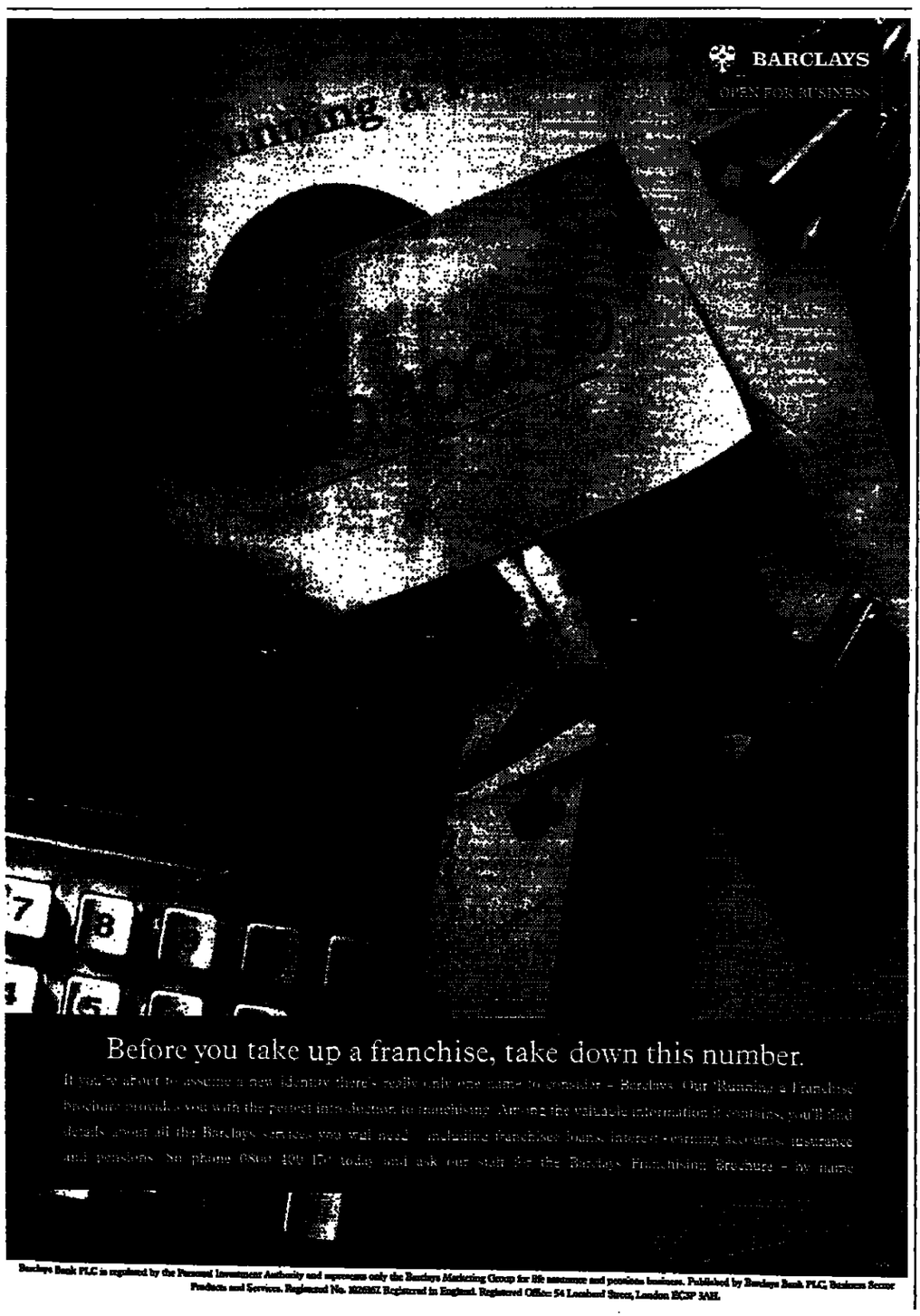
British Sugar also saw profits go into reverse, but ABF's discount clothes retailer, Primark, fared better, hoisting profits by over a fifth.

Longer term, apart from being in two entirely different businesses, there is more than a passing resemblance between ABF and the defence and electronics combine GEC.

Like GEC, ABF has been saddled for years with a monolithic image, trundling along from year to year like a corporate supertanker; it has been run for decades by a patriarchal figure in Mr Weston, who remains one of the most reclusive figures in British business; and it has accumulated a vast pile of cash it seems either scared or reluctant to dip into.

The main difference between the pair is that where Lord Weinstock owned less than 1 per cent of GEC, Mr Weston and his family own over half of ABF, and can tell the City to stuff itself if the occasion requires it.

Unfortunately for investors, there seems little chance that ABF will be as imaginative as GEC was in replacing Lord Weinstock when Mr Weston decides to call time on his illustrious career.



Building society members rush to sell shares

Richard Miles

MORE than a quarter of Alliance & Leicester members have opted to sell their windfall shares when the building society floats on the stock market next week.

The figure is higher than expected, raising fears that this summer's raft of mutual sell-offs, worth £20 billion, will have a greater impact on consumer spending and inflation than initially forecast by economists.

Earlier surveys suggested that only one in eight of the 16 million recipients of windfalls would cash in their shares, with most spending the money on foreign trips and home improvements.

Economists have largely based their forecasts on the only precedent for a building society demutualisation, the flotation of Abbey National in 1989. About 20 per cent of Abbey National members sold their shares within the six months after the company went public.

But Robert Barrie, an economist with investment bank BZW, insists the impact on inflation will remain insignificant, even if the Alliance & Leicester's experience is repeated elsewhere. He believes most investors will reinvest the cash elsewhere or pay off their debts.

"Between 5 and 10 per cent of windfalls will be spent, releasing £1-2 billion into the economy at most. It is a year when the personal sector will look to acquire some financial assets and these windfalls will give it the opportunity to do that," Mr Barrie said.

Alliance & Leicester said yesterday that 27.5 per cent of its share capital will be available to institutional investors at a special auction this Friday, three days before the building society floats on the stock market with an estimated market value of £2.5 billion.

About 92 per cent of Alliance & Leicester's 2.4 million qualifying members had indicated by last Friday what they intended to do with their windfall shares, worth between £1,200 and £1,400. Members who have yet to respond should contact the society by Wednesday. Unclaimed shares will be ring-fenced and held for three years.

Companies 'should produce environmental reports'

Roger Cowe

BUSINESS leaders are taking green issues more seriously than a year ago, and want the government to follow suit, according to an annual survey of business and environment trends.

The research, by the Green Alliance pressure group and environmental consultancy Entec, has found that business people want the new government to be tougher on the environment and to require companies to produce environmental reports.

Stephen Tindale of the Green Alliance said: "The message to politicians is clear: business does not want you to walk away from your environmental responsibilities."

Virtually all those questioned wanted investment allowances for clean technology. Three-fifths asked for a lower rate of VAT on energy-efficient raw materials. But other demands were less comfortable for industry and less costly for government.

The vast majority wanted action on misleading green claims in advertising. Two-thirds of executives called for open information about companies' pollution, and 58 per cent for compulsory environmental reporting.

Compared to last year, more companies thought policing of green laws should be tougher.

News in brief

Camelot loses legal game with 49's

CAMELOT, operator of the National Lottery, has suffered another setback in its efforts to see off a rival lottery-style game run by the high-street betting shops. Two High Court judges yesterday ruled that an application for a judicial review was not the proper route to determine the legality of the 49's game. A statement from 49's said: "We hope Camelot will desist from pursuing this matter further." However, Camelot, which has been waging a campaign against 49's since its launch in December, said a private prosecution was one of the options now under consideration. — *Dominic Walsh*

£400,000 pay-off

TWO UK-based building materials companies, Bardon Group and Camas, announced a £500 million merger to form Aggregate Industries, Britain's fifth-largest aggregates producer and a leading operator in the US. The move continues the contraction of the hard-hit construction industry begun last year when Tarmac swapped its housebuilding assets for Wimpey's construction materials business. Alan Shearer, the Camas chief executive, will leave with a pay-off of about £400,000 after the merger. The new company, which will be chaired by Maurice Warren, chairman of Camas, and have Peter Tom, Bardon chief executive, as its chief executive, is expected to make £10 million a year cost savings.

Zeneca finishes Salick course

ZENECA, the pharmaceuticals group, has paid $234 million (£145 million) to complete the acquisition of US drugs company Salick Health Care. Zeneca took a 50 per cent stake in Salick two years ago for $204 million. Salick is involved in the treatment of *patients with long-term illnesses such as cancer and kidney* failure and who require organ transplants. Zeneca shares fell 16p to 1835p — *Ian King*

Hanson unplugs electrics

HANSON, the rump of the former conglomerate which broke up last year, has continued to focus on building products by agreeing to a buy-out of its electrical business. The six UK factories employ 3,000 people and had sales last year of £145 million in products such as Crabtree and Volex switches, sockets and other electrical accessories. Hanson will receive £125 million in cash and £10 million in loan notes from a consortium led by the venture capital company Cinven and backed by loan finance from Royal Bank of Scotland and UBS. The newly independent company will be called Electrium. — *Roger Cowe*

GUS buys US marketing firm

MAIL-ORDER group Great Universal Stores yesterday bought a US company, Direct Marketing Technology, for $245 million (£151 million). Further payments of up to $52.5 million might be made depending on the company's performance until 2001. GUS said Direct Tech, which employs 570 staff and had sales last year of $85 million, was the market leader in direct marketing services to the US catalogue industry and complemented its purchase last November of the US consumer credit and marketing information services company Experian. — *Roger Cowe*

De La Rue axes 400 jobs

DE LA RUE, the printing and packaging group, yesterday unveiled a shake-up of its UK security print manufacturing operation that will include the closure of its factory in Dunstable. The move, designed to generate annual savings of £7 million, will result in 400 job losses. The cost of the exercise was put at £15 million. — *Dominic Walsh*

US MASTERS – THE AFTERMATH

Why Augusta went crazy about the boy

David Davies on the power and the glory but above all the focus of Tiger Woods

AFTER Tiger Woods had hit his second shot to the 72nd hole at Augusta National on Sunday, the crowds surrounding him went crazy. They recognised, if he did not, that he could take 13 putts and still win, and their hootin' and hollerin' told of their joy at the crowning of a new and glorious talent.

The object of this delirium walked on to the green, about to win his dreamed-of green jacket in his first major as a professional, and surveyed the scene. All around him people were going potty, shouting, chanting, clapping their hands above their heads, but Tiger Woods barely saw any of it or heard it at all.

Asked later what he felt as a 21-year-old walking on to that green, knowing that he could not fail to win the championship, he said: "Do you want an honest answer? I thought 'Boy, what a tough putt I've got left'."

Then, realising what he had said, he went on: "My focus never left me. I concentrated until I'd won."

If one incident sums up the 1997 US Masters, that surely is it. Woods, a young man who set a dozen different records last week, is a golfer not only without parallel in terms of obvious ball-striking talent but with the ability to close out the distractions and concentrate wholly on the business in hand.

Among the things that Woods was not thinking of was that by two-putting for a round of 69 and a total of 270, he was setting a new record aggregate for the Masters of 18 under par, beating a mark set by two of the game's great names, Jack Nicklaus and Raymond Floyd.

He was not thinking that by two-putting he would win by 12 shots, another record, or that by playing the last three rounds in 66, 65, 69 he was setting a record of 200 strokes for the last 54 holes. Likewise those middle rounds of 66, 65 set a new mark for a second-third-round total and he also became the youngest winner ever. He took that record off *Severiano Ballesteros*, who won in 1980 as a Beatle-browed urchin of 23.

Other things to elude him as he faced his tough putt were the fact that he would win for the fourth time since turning professional in August of last year, in only his 15th start; he would earn $486,000 (£300,000) to move to $966,350 for the season and that he would now be averaging $117,130 per tournament.

> 'Second sucks and third is even worse,' Woods told Curtis Strange

All he could think of was "Boy, what a tough putt."

It was, too — a nasty, slippery, slidy one of some 20 feet which he did well to stop six feet below the hole. He did even better to hole the return. It would have been a severe anti-climax had he missed. It would not have been a fitting finish to one of the great displays, reminiscent of the days when Nicklaus was in his pomp and demolishing fields in precisely the same way as had Woods.

This was a bench-mark performance. Woods knows that he will not be able to play to that level every week and that there will be courses less accommodating to his immense length. But he now also knows that, whatever the strength of the field and whatever the level of pressure, he has the skills and maturity to overcome it, and by a substantial margin at that.

There was, inevitably, immediate talk of a Grand Slam. In the moment of victory, and with the extreme confidence of youth, Woods refused to rule out such a possibility. He said: "I can't tell you whether it's realistic or not but I can tell you that Phil Mickelson won on the [PGA] Tour four times last year, so really it's only a matter of getting hot four times and having a lot of luck at the right time. What I can also tell you is that, if I enter a tournament, winning that tournament is my goal."

Woods' strength is his extreme length but there are courses where this will not be the asset it was at Augusta. Some of his hitting last week was, in the literal sense of the word, awesome. A drive and nine-iron at the 555-yard 2nd hole is almost unbelievable; a three-wood and nine-iron to the 485-yard 10th is ridiculous.

A 12-year-old in the crowd Ryan Parker, who was at a tournament for the first time, summed it up after Woods had launched yet another Exocet off the 9th tee. "It disappeared," said the boy. "You can hear it but you can't see it." The 9th is 435 yards long; it was another sand wedge to the green.

But even with those advantages, Woods may not necessarily prosper at the courses to be used for the next three majors.

Michael Bonallack, the secretary of the Royal and Ancient, said jokingly that Royal Troon would have to get the fertiliser and the corporation water-cart out to ensure that the rough is long and thick for the Open.

In fact that should not be necessary. Unless there is a drought on the Ayrshire coast there will enough rough at Troon to penalise a wayward shot, and Woods, being human, still hits a few of those. He got away with them at Augusta but things will not be so forgiving at Congressional in Washington (this year's US Open venue), Troon and Winged Foot in New York (US PGA Championship).

But there will always be the Woods confidence. One American TV programme on him contained a revealing off-cut from another station, with Curtis Strange interviewing Tiger. At one point Woods said: "There's really no point in going if you're not trying to win. Second sucks, and third is even worse."

Strange, a veteran of the circuit, said: "Hey, second is not too bad on the PGA Tour." At that point Woods repeated that he was interested only in winning and Strange turned away from the camera to grin a knowing grin. "He'll learn," he said cynically. Somehow one gets the feeling Woods never will.

Master stroke . . . Woods sees his green-jacket putt drop at the 18th on Sunday JOHN KUNTZ

Racing

Eddery fit and ready to strike on Oh Nellie

Chris Hawkins

PAT EDDERY, suffering from a back problem over the weekend, is fit to ride at Newmarket this afternoon and could win the big race, the Shadwell Stud Nell Gwyn Stakes, on Oh Nellie.

With many trainers complaining they have been held-up at home by firm ground, this filly, second to Monaassib at Kempton 15 days ago, should have the edge on her rivals.

Oh Nellie is trained by Neville Callaghan for millionaire Michael Tabor who campaigned her in Canada last season when she won three times at Woodbine Park.

She showed plenty of speed at Kempton over six furlongs on her English debut, but was just run out of it close home, going down by threequarters of a length in relatively the fastest time of the day.

Today's distance of seven furlongs should not be a problem, and she must have a bright chance.

The market will probably be the best guide to the prospects of her opponents, of which the pick on two-year-old form would appear to be Elegant Warning.

This Barry Hills-trained filly went in doing the proverbial hand-springs at Doncaster in the autumn when beating Henry Cecil's Open Credit by five lengths.

Dame Laura has solid claims on her second to Reams of Verse at Doncaster. There was not much of her physically, and she should be pretty straight first time out.

Baked Alaska is an interesting runner. She was a 33-1 chance when beating Miss Sancerre on her debut here in October and the runner-up, who takes her on again, followed up with an easy win at Lingfield.

Fillies races at this time of year are notoriously difficult, but at least we know Oh Nellie (3.10) has trained-on and is fit.

Victory for Monaassib (2.35) in the preceding Abernant Stakes would obviously be a boost for her.

Although Nick Lees has poured plenty of water on the track in recent weeks, Monaassib should still have the fastish ground he likes. He is not a top sprinter, but neither are his opponents and he looked as if the race would do him good at Kempton.

Cayman Kai won the Free Handicap, over seven furlongs, at this meeting last year and then took on the best without success over a mile. Back to sprinting, he could be the big danger.

The NGK Spark Plugs Stakes is a disappointing contest with only five runners and Poteen (3.45) will be a warm favourite on his second to Medaaly in the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster.

From the betting point of view, the Equity Financial Handicap with 20 runners is the race of the day.

They should go at least 6–1 the field here, and the likely favourite is Share Delight (4.45) who could justify it after the way he beat 21 rivals at Doncaster last month.

Henry Cecil has been busy telling punters not to expect too much from his runners this week, but he can be something of a pessimist, and it would not surprise me if he scored with Street General (2.00) in the opening April Maiden Stakes.

Street General, a colt by Generous out of an Alleged mare, will relish this trip and showed promise when second over a mile at Yarmouth on his only run as a juvenile.

Martin Pipe supporters will note that he mounts one of his through-the-card efforts at Exeter.

● Tony Dobbin's Grand National double bid was put in jeopardy when he injured a shoulder at Hexham yesterday. Dobbin, who rode Lord Gyllene to victory at Aintree, is due to partner Major Bell, 7–1 favourite with Ladbrokes, in Saturday's Scottish Grand National at Ayr.

Newmarket with form for televised races

CHRIS HAWKINS — TOP FORM

2.05	Street General
2.35	Monaassib (nap)
3.10	Oh Nellie
3.45	Poteen
4.15	Stawaf
4.45	Share Delight (nb)
5.20	Purist

Right-handed, two and a half mile course of which the final mile and a quarter is straight.
Going: Good. ★ Denotes blinkers. Draw: No advantage.
Long distance travellers: 2.35 My Melody Parkes, J Berry, Lancashire, 213 miles; 2.35 Carnalita, B Pailing, South Glamorgan, 204 miles; 4.45 Plan For Profit, M Johnston, North Yorkshire, 200 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 2.05 Not Forgotten; 4.45 Blue Goblin.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing

2.05 APRIL MAIDEN STAKES — 1m 4f £4,464 (9 declared) — CH4

101 (4)		Assured Gamble	C Britain 9–0	S Doyle —
102 (7)	6	Finstobble's Flour (10)	C Dwyer 9–0	J Stack —
103 (6)	50-6	Not Forgotten (47)	P Kelleway 9–0	K Darley ★ —
104 (2)	090-	Perlampe Mistica (188)	J Pearce 9–0	M Wigham 80
105 (1)	35-2	Prairie Falcon (18)	B Hills 9–0	M Hills 89
106 (5)		Salamah	R Charlton 9–0	Pat Eddery —
107 (3)	2-	Street General (167)	H Cecil 9–0	K Fallon 86
108 (9)		Autumn Time	P Chapple-Hyam 8–9	J Reid —
109 (8)	00-	Sloquet-de-Sauche (157)	R Dickin 8–9	P Mundy (7) —

Betting: 2–1 Prairie Falcon, 5–2 Street General, 3–1 Salamah, 9–2 Autumn Time, 10–1 Assured Gamble, 20–1 Perlampe Mistica.

FORM GUIDE – Prairie Falcon: From a stable that has started the season well, led approaching final furlong until close home, 2nd of 8, beaten a short head by Single Empire at Kempton 1m 5f, Gd-Fm. Henry Cecil won this last year and is represented by Street General who led briefly inside final furlong when 2nd of 13, 10 behind Merchlin at Yarmouth 1m, Gd. Salamah: A Sadler's Wells colt, half-brother to winners over 1m4f and 1m5f. Autumn Time: Last Tycoon filly, half-sister to 1m winner Sid Academy. Assured Gamble: Rock Hopper colt out of a mare who won over 1m4f. Perlampe Mistica: Chased leaders, lost place over 2f out, 7th of 10, 8l behind Silver Patriarch at Pontefract 1m2f, Gd.

2.35 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE/JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION ABERNANT STAKES — 6f £10,657 (8 declared) — CH4

201 (5)	051300-	Ranchiling Bear (197)	(D) M Blanshard 4–9–8	R Cochrane 95
202 (1)	121450-	Cayman Kai (258)	(C) R Hannon 4–9–6	Pat Eddery ●90
203 (2)	03200-2	Easy Dollar (24)	(CD) E Gubby 5–9–2	A Clark ★ 84
204 (3)	20122-1	Monaassib (18)	(B) E Dunlop 5–9–2	S O'Gorman 95
205 (7)	1203P4-	Sylva Paradise (188)	(D) C Britain 4–9–2	M Roberts 86
206 (6)	10044-2	Carnalita (18)	(CD) B Pailing 7–9–1	T Sprake 82
207 (8)	402043-	My Melody Parkes (244)	J Berry 4–8–11	K Darley 82
208 (4)	315155-	Wildwood Flower (178)	(CD) R Hannon 4–8–11	Dane O'Neill 74

Betting: 5–2 Monaassib, 7–2 Carnalita, 4–1 Cayman Kai, 9–2 Easy Dollar, 7–1 Sylva Paradise, 10–1 Rambling Bear.

FORM GUIDE – Monaassib: Closest leaders, led 2f out, beat Oh Nellie by 3l at Kempton 6f, Gd-Fm. Carnalita: Promised, chased winner over 2f out, no impression inside last furlong, 2nd of 8, 3¼l behind Reaston Mosk at Warwick 7f, Gd-Fm. Cayman Kai: Always in rear when 9th of 10, 19l behind First Island at Goodwood 1m, Sd-Fm. Easy Dollar: Always chasing leaders, ran on well, 2nd of 8, 5l behind Royal Applause at Doncaster 5f, Gd-Fm. Sylva Paradise: Led over 1f out, soon headed, 4th of 12, 3l behind Dilidost at Ascot 6f, Sd-Fm. Rambling Bear: Speed to halfway when 5th of 10, 6l behind Kadeva at Longchamp 5f, Gd-Sft.

3.10 SNADWELL STUD NELL GWYN STAKES — 7f £19,188 (10 declared) — CH4

301 (3)	1-	Baked Alaska (178)	(C) A Stewart 8–9	M Roberts 86
302 (5)	104-	Guerilla Dancer (188)	R Akehurst 8–9	S Sanders 70
303 (7)	11402-	Consumera (258)	C Dwyer 8–9	J Reid 85
304 (2)	212202-	Dame Laura (215)	(C) H Morrison 8–9	T Quinn 94
305 (9)	2311-	Elegant Warning (171)	(C) B Hills 8–9	M Hills ●90
306 (1)	2-	Inspired Scholar (234)	J Eustace 8–9	N Carlisle 78
307 (6)	21-	Miss Sancerre (168)	(B) S Wragg 8–9	L Dettori 94
308 (8)	1114-2	Oh Nellie (15)	(B) N Callaghan 8–9	Pat Eddery 86
309 (10)	212-	Open Credit (171)	(C) H Cecil 8–9	K Fallon 79
310 (4)	13-	Rosalien (204)	J Hills 8–9	B Hills 81

Betting: 6–4 Elegant Warning, 4–1 Oh Nellie, 5–1 Open Credit, 7–1 Dame Laura, 8–1 Baked Alaska, 10–1 Miss Sancerre, Consumera.

FORM GUIDE – Elegant Warning: Held up, quickened well to lead over 1f out, soon clear, beat Open Credit 5½l, ran on well, 2l at Doncaster 6f, Gd. Oh Nellie: Led until ben run out, kept on well, beaten 3¼l by Monaassib at Kempton 6f, Gd-Fm. Dame Laura: Close up, disputed lead over 2f, outpaced final furlong, 2nd of 11, 2l behind Reams of Verse at Doncaster 1m, Gd-Fm. Baked Alaska: Headway 2f out, led inside final, ran on well, beat Miss Sancerre (level) 1¼l at Newmarket 6f, Gd. Miss Sancerre: Made virtually all, beat Kikatarny 3l at Lingfield 7f, Gd-Sft. Consumera: Headway over 2f out, ran on well, 2nd of 7, a neck behind Carmine Lake at Goodwood 5f, Gd-Fm.

3.45 NGK SPARK PLUGS CONDITIONS STAKES — 7f £4,789 (5 declared) — CH4

401 (4)	12-	Poteen (177)	(D) L Cumani 9–1	Pat Eddery ●90
402 (2)	1-	Sagarfond (208)	H Thomas 9–1	K Darley 70
403 (1)	51-	Za-Iss (173)	B Hills 9–1	B Hills 80
404 (3)		Churchill's Shadow	B Preece 8–11	L Dettori —
405 (5)		Space Race	C Dyer 8–11	K Fallon —

Betting: 4–7 Poteen, 5–2 Za-Iss, 6–1 Sagarfond, 16–1 Space Race, 25–1 Churchill's Shadow.

FORM GUIDE – Poteen: Headway to lead over 1f out, headed and no extra inside last, 2nd of 9, 2l behind Medaaly at Doncaster 1m, Gd. Za-Iss: prominent, led over 1f out, pushed clear, beat Soviet Star 2l at Newbury 8f, Sft. Sagarfond: Held up, lengthy 3l out, led inside last, beat Farlington Fusion 1¾l at Ayr 6f auction, Gd-Fm. Space Race: Rock Hopper gelding, half-brother to 6f winner Mistigri and 3 other sprint winners. Churchill's Shadow: Polish Precedent colt, half-brother to the very useful Dilidost and 2 other winners.

4.15 ALEX SCOTT MAIDEN STAKES — 7f £4,659 (12 declared)

501 (4)	4-4	Beyond Calculation	(IRE) (BF) P Harris 8–11	J Reid 80
502 (9)	0-	Broad River	(222) E Dunlop 8–11	D O'Donohoe (3) 78
503 (11)	0-	Chatura	(208) S Dow 8–11	M Roberts —
504 (10)	4	Dancesway	(167) H Cecil 8–11	K Fallon 82
505 (7)	2-	Judicial Supremacy	(174) J Fanshawe 8–11	Pat Eddery 82
506 (12)		Kool N Shoots	8–11	W R Swinburn —
507 (6)	022-5	Moonbeliever	(19) G Wragg 8–11	M Hills 84
508 (1)	5-	Regal Thunder	(196) M Stoute 8–11	K Darley 79
509 (8)		Satin Stone	J Gosden 8–11	L Dettori —
510 (5)	3-	Shawaf	(262) J Dunlop 8–11	R Hills 79
511 (3)	0	Spice Storm	(18) M Bell 8–11	M Fenton —
512 (2)	352-	Wasp Ranger	(196) P Cole 8–11	T Quinn ●80

Betting: 5–2 Dancesway, 5–1 Kool, Satin Stone, 7–1 Beyond Calculation, 8–1 Shawaf, Regal Thunder, 10–1 Wasp Ranger.

4.45 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS HANDICAP — 7f £8,409 (20 declared)

601 (9)	318-	Badadieg	(169) (D) J Dunlop 9–7	K Darley 94
602 (18)	23245-4	Miss Gallilei	(15) (BF) L Cumani 9–4	L Dettori + 87
603 (11)	13503-4	Stone Flower	(17) P Chapple-Hyam 9–3	J Reid 87
604 (3)	201120-	Sharp Hat	(186) R Hannon 9–1	R Hughes 85
605 (12)	650-	Shaikiah	(156) E Dunlop 8–13	D O'Donohoe (3) 88
606 (1)	120-	Speedfloss	(157) J Dunlop 8–11	S Dawson 79
607 (10)	0635-1	Share Delight	(34) (D) B Hills 8–10	M Hills ●89
608 (19)	234-	Sheepdown	(207) N Graham 8–9	D Holland 87
609 (15)	543-	Great Child	(169) M Stoute 8–8	K Fallon 78
610 (20)	522-	Topsalot	(202) M Tompkins 8–8	M Henry (3) 79
611 (4)	34321-	Just Blick	(155) W Muir 8–7	Pat Eddery 80
612 (7)	064-1	Miss Dram	(28) R Hannon 8–7	Dane O'Neill 85
613 (6)	005-	Al Mosmar	(211) J Payne 8–6	A McGlone 81
614 (5)	42-2224	Plan For Profit	(34) M Johnston 8–6	J Weaver 87
615 (8)	139-	Smart Dog	(203) P Cole 8–5	T Quinn 85
616 (14)	3535-	Summer Queen	(248) S Woods 8–3	A Clark 70
617 (2)	3300-0	Saratoga Red	(32) (BF) W O'Gorman 8–1	Emma O'Gorman
618 (13)	010-0	Bob Flyer	(17) (BF) M Bell 8–0	R Mullen (5) 72
619 (16)	0123-	Royal Blackbird	(159) J Banks 7–10	J Quinn 74
620 (17)	0560-0	Lindon's Last	(17) J Jenkins 7–10	N Carlisle —

Betting: 6–1 Share Delight, 7–1 Stone Flower, 8–1 Sheepdown, 10–1 Blue Goblin, Sharp Hat, Great Child, Shaikiah.

5.20 MUSEUM MAIDEN STAKES — 1m 2f £4,854 (18 declared)

1 (14)	0-	Badiaola Bounds	(205) C British 9–0	B Doyle —
2 (5)	60-	Fabled Light	(167) G Wragg 9–0	M Hills 70
3 (13)		Final Stage	P Chapple-Hyam 9–0	J Reid —
4 (17)	6-	Garuda	(250) J Dunlop 9–0	T Quinn 86
5 (16)		Groucho	R Charlton 9–0	K Darley —
6 (7)	0-	Magdalene Hill	(201) Mrs J Cecil 9–0	Pat Eddery 82
7 (9)		Master N Cecil	9–0	K Fallon —
8 (3)	3-	Mineral Eight	(188) B Hills 9–0	B Hills 87
9 (15)	0-	Nickel Fifty	(176) M Tompkins 9–0	D Biggs 78
10 (2)	0655-	Pentonic	(185) M Haynes 9–0	G Carter 67
11 (10)	44324-	Party Romance	(197) B Hanbury 9–0	J Stack ●86
12 (18)	0-	Perfist	(158) M Stoute 9–0	L Dettori 76
13 (12)	45-	Recousse	(185) H Cecil 9–0	W Ryan 86
14 (11)		Shellfleet	L Cumani 9–0	O Urbina —
15 (8)		Slipstream	R Guest 9–0	G Duffield —
16 (6)	4	Highly Respected	(26) A Balley 8–9	D Wright 81
17 (4)		Kennet Inheritance	J Fanshawe 8–9	D Harrison —
18 (11)		Maid of Camelot	R Charlton 8–9	T Sprake —

Betting: 7–2 Monitor, 5–1 Natural Eight, 8–1 Recousse, 9–1 Final Stage, Groucho, 10–1 Shellfleet.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St
Pat Eddery	89	477	20.8	-35.65
L Dettori	65	465	14.2	-170.14
W R Swinburn	44	305	14.4	+8.17
J Reid	34	330	10.3	-33.19
T Quinn	32	340	9.4	-144.16
M Hills	31	314	9.9	-84.54

Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
H R A Cecil	58	237	24.5	+21.90
J H M Gosden	41	287	14.3	-72.17
M Stoute	39	483	8.13	-227.86
B W Hills	36	246	11.4	-102.26
J L Dunlop	26	266	10.5	-102.31
L M Cumani	24	232	10.3	-123.09
M R Stoute	24	275	8.73	-136.47

Cheltenham card with TV form

CHRIS HAWKINS — TOP FORM

2.20	Pridwell
2.55	Strong Promise
3.30	Fantasy Line
4.00	Flinsy Truth
4.35	Regal Aura
5.10	Give And Take

Left-handed course of one and a half miles with an uphill finish.
Going: Good To Firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: 2.20 Militaic, W Cunningham, North Yorkshire, 213 miles; 3.30 Good Vibes, T Easterby, 197 miles; 4.00 Royal Vacation, G. Moore, North Yorkshire, 196 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 3.30 Lance Armstrong, Silver Thyne.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing

2.20 MITIE GROUP HURDLE — 2m 4f £5,434 (3 declared) — CH4

1	542002	Pridwell	(10) (C) (D) M Pipe 7–11–8	R Dunwoody ●90
2	233034	Militaic	(31) W Cunningham 5–11–0	N Johnson 70
3	51-3501	Handy Lass	(13) J Smith 8–10–9	T J Murphy 71

Betting: 1–8 Pridwell, 8–1 Militaic, 10–1 Handy Lass.

FORM GUIDE – Pridwell: Going well four out, brought to challenge run-in but hung left, beaten 1½l by Blessey at Aintree 2m4f, Gd. Militaic: Chased leaders, challenged 3 out, bit run and one pace after, 4th of 21, 15l behind Far Ahead at Newcastle 2m hdl, Gd. Handy Lass: Chased leaders, led two out, driven out, beat Peter Mossey 3l at Worcester 2m2f hcp hdl, Gd-Fm.

2.55 FAUCETS FOR MIRA RADA SHOWERS SILVER TROPHY CHASE — 2m 5f £18,840 (4 declared) — CH4

1	214152	Strong Promise	(11) (C) (BF) G Richard 8–11–7	N Williamson ●90
2	232230	Gales Cavalier	(11) (CD) D Gandolfo 9–11–4	R Dunwoody 92
3	2-24133	Viking Flagship	(11) (C) D Nicholson 10–11–4	N Johnson 94
4	U0-03PP	Celtic Laird	(34) D Burchell 9–11–0	D J Burchell —

Betting: 8–11 Strong Promise, 6–4 Viking Flagship, 8–1 Gales Cavalier, 100–1 Celtic Laird.

FORM GUIDE – Strong Promise: prominent, led briefly 2 out, not pace of winner, 2nd of 4, 5l behind Manton's Son. Viking Flagship: chased leaders, no extra from two out, 3rd of 4, btn 5l at Aintree 2m4f ch, Gd. Gales Cavalier: tracked leaders to 6th, soon lost touch, tailed off, 5th of 12, 58l behind Cadoupoli at Aintree 2m4f hcp hdl, Gd. Celtic Laird: Led until 15th, soon weakened and pulled up two out on race won by Shoelin Lad at Huntingdon 3m hcp ch, Gd-Fm.

3.30 EBF NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE FINAL — 2m 4f £16,200 (9 declared) — CH4

1	0-12157	Spring Gale	(43) (D) O Sherwood 6–11–12	J Osborne 86
2	112321	Good Vibes	(15) T Easterby 5–11–11	L Wyer ●86
3	1-3411	Friendship	(29) N Henderson 5–11–7	M A Fitzgerald 86
4	80412F	Fantasy Line	(15) (D) (BF) P Webber 6–11–4	A Thornton 87
5	6-12311	Lance Armstrong	(29) (D) G McCourt 7–11–2	D Fortt (3) ★ 86
6	45012P	Silver Thyne	(11) (D) Mrs J Pitman 5–11–1	D Leahy ★ 86
7	030PT1	Sir Dante	(19) (D) A Rowe 6–10–4	D O'Sullivan 80
8	3-40513	Rhythm And Blues	(29) R Buckler 7–10–3	S McNeill 80
9	5-4F021	Seabrook Lad	(19) M Wilkinson 6–10–0	W Marston 80

Betting: 7–2 Friendship, 4–1 Good Vibes, 9–2 Fantasy Line, 5–1 Spring Gale, 8–1 Lance Armstrong, 10–1 Sir Dante, Seabrook Lad.

FORM GUIDE – Friendship: Headway 6th, hard ridden 3rd, led run-in, ran on well, beat Militaic and Sir Sandrovitch 2m5f now hdl, Gd. Good Vibes: Made all, clear 2 out, beat Ardcanoch 3l at Wetherby 2m nov hch, Gd. Fantasy Line: Led 7th, 10 lengths clear when fell last in race won by Montjeu at Leicester 2m4f110y nov hcl, Gd-Fm. Spring Gale: Effort 3 out, stayed on to lead near finish, beat Charley Lambert 13l at Doncaster 2m4f nov hch, Gd-Fm. Lance Armstrong: Led 13th, hampered before last, held on gamely, beat Mawney's Choice 11l at Exeter 2m 3f 110yds hcp ch, Gd-Sft. Sir Dante: Led two out, beat Antiguan Flyer 5l at Folkestone 2m 4f hcp hdl, Gd. Seabrook Lad: Headway 5th, led approaching 2 out, ran on well, beat Good Oni 7l at Huntingdon 2m 5f 110yds hdle, Gd-Fm.

4.00 LARKSHILL ENGINEERING GOLDEN MILLER HANDICAP CHASE — 3m 2f 110yds £4,879 (11 declared)

1	0125-5P	Jones Pips	(25) (C) P Nicholls 10–11–13	R Dunwoody 86
2	P1414P	Mustbeseeing	(31) (D) D Nicholson 11–11–9	R Johnson ●93
3	635141	Denver Bay	(21) J Gifford 10–11–7	L Aspell (3) 86
4	5/1-2230	Copper Mine	(81) (D) O Sherwood 11–11–5	J Osborne 86
5	31P123	Royal Vacation	(15) (D) G Moore 8–11–2	J Callaghan 85
6	13141F	Flinsy Truth	(32) (D) M Morris 11–11–2	Mr M Rimell 87
7	11281P	Got Guard You	(58) C Morlock 8–10–10	J R Kavanagh ★ 82
8	12-4435	Le Mellie	(48) (C) (D) K Burke 8–10–9	N Williamson 84
9	3UP512	Big Ben Dan	(59) (D) C Brooks 11–10–7	S Bradley 82
10	/P1133-2	Suffolk Road	(29) R Rowe 10–10–6	D O'Sullivan 80
11	34PP41	Foxgrove	(27) R Price 11–10–0	Mr R Thornton (3) 76

Betting: 3–1 Denver Bay, 9–2 Mustbeseeing, 5–1 Flinsy Truth, 6–1 Le Mellie, 7–1 Royal Vacation, 8–1 Copper Mine

4.35 CIRENCESTER NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE — 2m 5f £4,280 (7 declared)

1	344221	Decyborg	(19) (D) M Pipe 5–11–10	R Dunwoody 96
2	C26234	Key To Mayade	(22) M Williamson 7–11–3	W Marston ●89
3	3-3221	Normanscape	(15) D Grissell 7–10–10	J R Kavanagh 82
4	6/FP-811	Regal Aura	(29) (D) D O'Brien 7–10–4	P Hide 82
5	1/43P33	Glenmagilligan	(14) P Dalton 7–10–4	Mr R Thornton (3) 82
6	0-80225	Boots N All	(13) (BF) G Balding 7–10–0	B Fenton 80
7	253FFP	Flinsy Boy	(34) K Burke 8–10–0	M Williamson ★ 78

Betting: 11–8 Decyborg, 7–2 Normanscape, 6–1 Key To Mayade, 7–1 Regal Aura, Boots N All, 8–1 Glenmagilligan

5.10 STOKE ORCHARD NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE — 2m 4f £4,788 (6 declared)

1	3212	Give And Take	(13) (BF) M Pipe 11–10	D Walsh ●90
2	313450	Squire's Occasion	(67) R Curtis 11–4	J Parkinson (7) 86
3	2105P1	Chief Moose	(27) F Jordan 11–4	P Carberry 87
4	800331	Noble Colours	(15) S Griffiths 10–13	Mr A Wintle (7) 84
5	P0U02	Arrogant Heir	(15) D Brown 10–5	Derek Byrne 86
6	203305	Sterling Fellow	(15) D Williams 10–0	Mr S Durack (7) 76

Betting: 2–1 Give And Take, 5–2 Squire's Occasion, 4–1 Noble Colours, 7–1 Chief Moose, Arrogant Heir, 12–1 Sterling Fellow.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St
R Dunwoody	43	231	18.6	+9.11
J Osborne	30	165	18.1	-42.03
N Williamson	25	115	21.7	+22.24
A Maguire	25	177	14.1	-84.71
A P McCoy	20	86	23.3	+47.64
W Marston	14	95	14.7	-16.77

Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
M C Pipe	35	289	12.5	-63.49
D Nicholson	31	197	15.7	-33.20
J T Gifford	29	121	16.5	+16.95
S Sherwood	15	71	21.1	-5.75
M J Haddenson	14	128	10.9	-46.18
Miss J Pitman	13	82	15.9	+9.63
G B Balding	11	111	9.99	-38.97

Results

KEVIN DARLEY was given a six-day ban at Musselburgh yesterday after being found guilty of irresponsible riding on Manolo, runner-up to Johayro in the five furlong Forth FM Tolbooth Limited Stakes.

He was stood down from April 23 to 26 inclusive, 28 and 29, and Manolo was relegated to fourth place.

MUSSELBURGH

2.20 (2m Hdle): 1, HEAVENLY ABSTONE, J F Egan (4–9 fav), 2, Moss Side Monkey (16–1); 3, Rock From The Sea (9–2). 5 ran. 5, sh hd. (P Evans) Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £2.40. Dual F: £3.30. CSF: £7.96.

2.40 (1m 4f): 1, AS-IS, J Weaver (11–10 fav); 2, Hello Dolly (10–1); 3, Sam Peeh (15–1). 6 ran. 2l, 6. (M Johnston) Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £2.80. Dual F: £4.30. CSF: £12.79.

3.20 (2½: 1, JOHAYRO, A Culnane (5–1); 2, Able Sheriff (11–10 fav); 3, Shadow Jury (5–1). 8 ran. Nk, 12. (J Goldie) Tote: £3.50; £2.60, £1.70. . Dual F: £5.00. CSF: £10.12. Manolo who finished second was disqualified and placed fourth.

3.50 (1m): 1, KROSNO, K Darley (11–8 fav); 2, Blarney Grey (8–1); 3, Music Express (5–1). 8 ran. 3l, 1¾. (S Williams) Tote: £1.80; £1.40, £1.30. Dual F: £4.90. CSF: £8.50.

4.20 (1m): 1, SCATHELBURY, K Fallon (5–1); 2, Sadiaula (4–1 fav); 3, Kiss Alkaios (6–1). 14 ran. ¾, nk. (K Burke) Tote: £5.80; £2.00, £2.30, £1.90. Dual F: £8.90. Trio: £94.60. CSF: £27.65. Tricast: £127.74.

4.50 (2m Hdle): 1, TANCRED MISCHIEF, Darren Moffatt (8–1); 2, Ascoberone (4–1); 3, Dragdon (14–1). 10–11 fav Here Comes Herbie. 9 ran. ¾, 5. (D Barker) Tote: £9.70; £2.40, £1.80, £5.80. Dual F: £13.90 Trio: £35.80. CSF: £36 04. Tricast: £404.55.
PLACEPOT: £85.20. QUADPOT: £37.40.

HEXHAM

2.10 (2m 110yds Ch): 1, GONE ASHORE, A Dobbin (13–2); 2, All Clear (7–1); 3, Jonness (9–4 fav). 8 ran. 6, 5. (M Barnes) Tote: £5.70; £2.20, £3.00, £1.40. Dual F: £15.20. CSF: £42.36.

2.40 (2m 4f 110yds Hdle): 1, EASTCLIFFE, G Cahill (7–4 fav); 2, Pepper Chase (3–1); 3, Raise A Dollar (4–1). 12 ran. 5, 11. (W McKeown) Tote: £4.30; £1.10, £1.70, £2.10. Dual F: £6.30. Trio: £4 00. CSF: £8.49.

3.10 (2m 4f 110yds Ch): 1, BISHOPDALE, F Perratt (6–1); 2, Shawwell (Evens Fav); 3, Aristedemos (12–1). 4 ran. 19, 2. (S Chadwick) Tote: £5.80. Dual F: £2.70. CSF: £11.80.

3.40 (2m Hdle): 1, GLENUGIE, N Bentley (Evens fav); 2, Briny (15–8); 3, Highland Way (7–2). 4 ran. 1¾, sh h. (G Moore) Tote: £2.10. Dual F: £2.00. CSF: £3.09. NR: Apollo's Daughter.

**4.10 (2m 1f Ch): 1, SECRET BAY,

Soccer

Scottish Cup, semi-final

Kilmarnock 0, Dundee United 0

Another semi, still no finalist

Patrick Glenn at Easter Road

THE curse of the semi-final — precious little football, no winner — means that the supporters of these would-be cup finalists will have to return to Edinburgh a week tonight to go through the process once again. After last night's poor show, many of them may have to be dragged by the hair.

A cold, gusting wind and a playing surface that looked as though it had developed alopecia combined to ensure that the senses were never likely to be assailed by divine artistry. These difficulties were overlaid with the tension that usually pervades a semi-final.

The first time a deliberate pass was made — by McLaren through the middle of the Kilmarnock defence towards Pedersen — MacPherson had to do good work to scamper back and drive it away for a throw.

If anything, Kilmarnock produced most of what passing there was in the first half, with McIntyre at one point sending in a looping header from McKee's centre which Dykstra had to tip over.

The Ayrshire side also contrived the most cohesive move of the first 45 minutes when a combination between MacPherson, Reilly and McIntyre ended with the ball being slung to the far post, where Pedersen had to crane his neck to knock the ball off the leaping Wright's head.

Kilmarnock at that stage looked the hungrier, yet, in a rare break, Lekovic had to block Olofsson's shot with his foot after the Swede had been released by McLaren.

Playing down the Easter Road slope and with the wind behind them in the second half, United spent more time in Kilmarnock territory. But there was a lack of composure and fluency about their attacks, and they relied on the long ball in the hope of catching defenders on the turn.

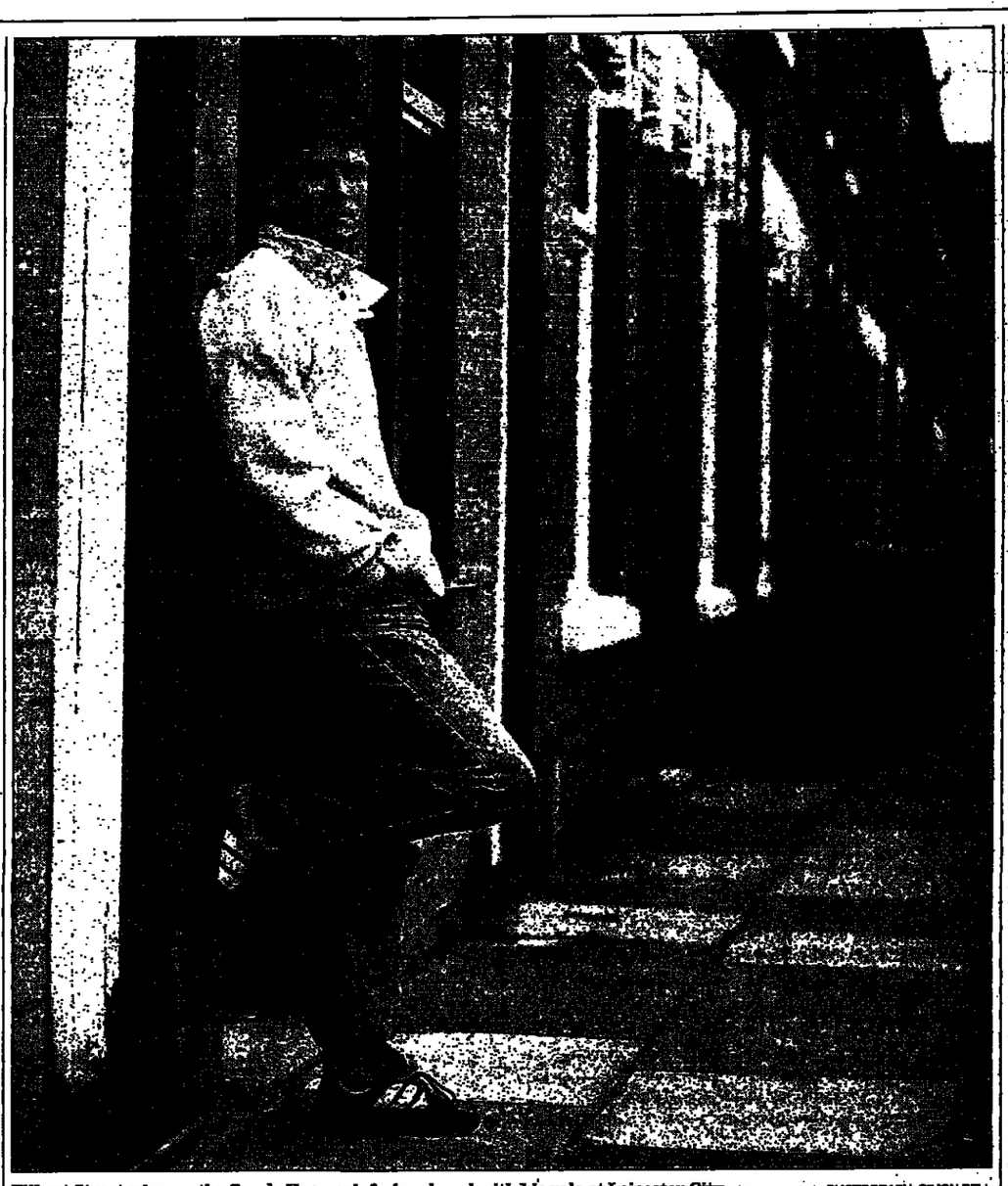
They nearly succeeded when Olofsson was fed on the left and his quick nod across the area was met by the diving Duffy, but his header sailed over.

In the 68th-minute United replaced McLaren with McKinnon, who had scored with three free-kicks to give the Tannadice team a 3–2 victory on the last occasion the two sides met.

Kilmarnock: Lekovic; MacPherson, Kerr, Montgomerie, McGowne, Bagan, Henry, Reilly, McKee (Brown, 83min), Wright, McIntyre.

Dundee United: Dykstra; Pedersen, Perry, Malpas, McKimmie, Duffy, Zetterlund, Dolan, Olofsson, Winters (McSwegan, 83), McLaren (McKinnon, 69). **Referee:** J McCluskey (Stewarton).

● Iain Munro will take Raith Rovers to court over his claim for compensation after being sacked yesterday by the Premier Division club. Munro had served only six months of a three-year contract. Raith's chairman Alex Penman told him he would receive no compensation. Raith's midfielder Steve Kirk takes charge until the end of the season.



Filbert Street wise . . . the Swede Kaamark feels relaxed with his role at Leicester City PHOTOGRAPH: SIMON BELL

Boro now face four games in eight days twice

Russell Thomas

THE Premier League will almost certainly order Middlesbrough to play at Tottenham two days after next Tuesday's FA Cup semi-final replay with Chesterfield after repeating that the season will not be extended.

Boro's latest cup stalemate means that Bryan Robson's team now face two schedules of four games in eight days, split by a nine-day break for World Cup ties.

The Premiership game at Tottenham was originally scheduled for a week tomorrow. A Premier League spokesman said yesterday: "That match is now likely to take place on Thursday, April 24 or the following evening. As far as we are concerned the issue of extending the season is a dead duck."

The Thursday date is far more likely because Boro and Spurs players are likely to be released the following day to join their countries under the five-day rule.

Boro's prime concern after the international break is that four players, Fabrizio Ravanelli, Mikkel Beck, Juninho and Vladimir Kinder, report back for the final four games free of injury.

Robson feared at first yesterday that the Spurs game would be pushed back to the final week, leaving his relegation-fighting team with an even more exhausting run-in of five games in eight days.

Boro, who backed Manchester United's call for an extension, did not put renewed pressure on the Premier League yesterday to prolong the season beyond May 11.

"The League are aware of our backlog of games and we are not in discussion with them," said the club's public relations manager Dave Allen. "Once they come up with a suggestion, the parties involved will discuss it."

Robson's immediate concern is tomorrow's Coca-Cola Cup final replay at Hillsborough against a Leicester side expected to be free of injury.

Peter White writes: Aston Villa's manager Brian Little has fined Mark Bosnich around £10,000 after the Australian goalkeeper's walk-out before Saturday's match at Derby County.

But Little confirmed, after fining Bosnich the maximum two weeks' wages, that no further action would be taken and it would be up to the goalkeeper to force his way back into the first team.

Bosnich, recovered from injury, stormed out an hour before kick-off after being told he would be on the substitutes' bench while Michael Oakes continued in goal.

Little said last night: "I have spoken to Mark and he has said sorry to me."

Bolton and Wolves were heavily fined by the FA yesterday after the mass brawl in their First Division game at Burnden Park in January.

Bolton were fined £40,000, of which £30,000 has been suspended until the end of next season. Wolves were fined £30,000, with £22,500 suspended on the same terms as Bolton.

Middlesbrough programme: Tomorrow: Coca-Cola Cup final replay v Leicester. April 19: Sunderland (h). April 22: FA Cup semi-final replay v Chesterfield. April 24 or 28: Tottenham (a). May 3: Aston Villa (h). May 6: Man Utd (a). May 8: Blackburn (a). May 11: Leeds (a).

Second Division

Stockport County 1, Watford 0

Jeffers keeps Stockport boiling

Michael Walker

STOCKPORT's extraordinarily successful season shows no sign of pausing for breath. Not even in this, their 61st game and second of four in eight days, was there evidence of either tired legs or flagging spirit. In fact John Jeffers's excellent and deserved 53rd-minute goal lifted Stockport above both Luton and Brentford into the second automatic-promotion spot.

It had seemed that the early disruption of losing their influential Portuguese winger Cavaco, with a suspected broken leg, might affect County's pattern but no sooner had his replacement Jeffers come on than he delivered a tempting far-post cross that Cooper nodded inches wide.

Thereafter the first half lost its fluency, apart from the occasional pinged pass from Stockport's latest recruit, the 38-year-old Cowans.

Slater, once of West Ham and Celtic, showed touches of finesse that were in marked contrast to some of those from his muscular team-mates. However, it was at the other end where skill was most in evidence and it was via a splendid example of jinky wing play that the stalemate ended.

Receiving a pass from Cowans, Jeffers spun the ball around Gibbs on the edge of the area; having lanced Gibbs, Jeffers ran on to the ball and squeezed a precise shot past Miller and into the corner.

Stockport County: Jones; Connelly, Flynn, Gannon, Todd, Bennett, Cowans (Dinning, 65min), Cavaco (Jeffers, 13), Chartery, A Armstrong (Mutch, 84), Cooper.

Watford: Miller; Gibbs, C Armstrong, Palmer, Millen, Page, Slater, Andrews (Phillips, 85), Ramage, Easton, Mooney. **Referee:** D Allison (Lancaster).

Leicester's magic marker

Roy Collins on Pontus Kaamark, whose adhesive qualities kept Middlesbrough's Juninho quiet in the first League Cup final

AS a famous story of the Sixties goes, a photographer was once sent to Stamford Bridge for the seemingly facile task of capturing a single sharp shot of George Best in full, flowing action for use on a poster.

In his studio the following day the photographer, knee deep in coils of discarded negative film, screams: "This is hopeless. Every shot has been spoiled by some bullet-headed guy on George's shoulder."

The bullet-headed guy was Best's marker Ron Harris. And, though the story, like most of the best ones, is probably apocryphal, no snapper given a similar brief to capture Juninho in splendid isolation in last Sunday's drawn Coca-Cola Cup final would have fared any better.

Nor, on the basis of Leicester's Pontus Kaamark's remarkable marking job on Middlesbrough's Juninho, would he load his camera for tomorrow's replay at Hillsborough with any enthusiasm.

Man marking, of course, is much like constant bowling down the leg side: perfectly legal but, as Frank Bruno would say: "It's not cricket, 'Arry."

If it was not quite as moral a dilemma for the Leicester man as that faced a couple of thousand years ago by a man with a similar first name, Kaamark, capped 27 times by Sweden, still felt awkward about it.

"I apologised to him a little bit for what I had to do. I said to him, it's only because you're such a good player. It does seem a way of destroying football, if a man is an artist, why take that away from the game? People want to see good football but we had to do what we could to win. He seemed to understand that. He is a very nice person. We chatted throughout the game."

Juninho's first point of conversation was the plastic cast on his rival's left arm, protecting a recovering break. Kaamark says: "He thought I might hit him with it but I told him that I was quite a fair player; a minute later I was booked for fouling him.

"Then at a corner my head connected with his eyebrow and he ran to the referee complaining that I'd hit him with my cast. I told him it was my head and said that his must be made of wood because of the bump he'd given me."

The job of containing Juninho for 90 minutes or, as it turned out, 120, seemed so impossible Leicester debated at half-time whether to change the marker. By then, though, Pontus was on automatic pilot; once you are locked into such a role, he says, it is almost impossible to revert to the simplest football skills.

Kaamark is sensitive about his destructive role because he understands, through the terrible personal anguish of his colleague Garry Parker, that a football result can never be a matter of life and death. Parker, whose daughter Carmen Rae is recovering in hospital after being born 17 weeks premature at 1lb 6oz, says: "We work for each other. Pontus sacrificed his normal role to do a great job against Juninho."

Kaamark's refreshing candour is undiminished by some unfortunate interpretations of earlier comments.

He is still ribbed by teammates about a story in the Swedish press that suggested all British players were drunkards who hardly trained. "I was merely talking about different lifestyles. For example, back home you couldn't have Walkers crisps on the shirt because they're not considered healthy food.

"In Sweden we couldn't drink Coca-Cola before a match either, only water, whereas you can imagine a player like Maradona having two or three Cokes before a game." Not that Maradona is famous for the sort of coke that comes in cans.

Kaamark hopes that he will be apologising to Juninho again for another job well done at Hillsborough tomorrow and he may even ask for his shirt this time. "I didn't offer to exchange after the first match. Maybe I will tomorrow. I'll see what he has to say. I don't think he has any fear of me. But he is probably sick of the sight of me."

Press kept out of bung hearing

Owen Bowcott

A LEGAL application to convert the judicial examination of the former managers George Graham of Arsenal and Nottingham Forest's Brian Clough into a public hearing was defeated yesterday.

Both men, with seven other past and present personnel from the two Premiership clubs, are being interviewed this week in London on behalf of Norwegian prosecutors pursuing a case against the international football agent Rune Hauge.

The Norwegians are investigating alleged irregularities in deals organised by Hauge for transfers of Norwegian players. The interviews are part of the evidence-gathering process before Hauge's trial in Norway.

At the opening of proceedings in London yesterday lawyers for the Daily Mail and Daily Telegraph argued that the hearing was part of a court case and should be open to the public. But Arndt Angell, for the Norwegian prosecutors, and Kuldip Singh QC, for Hauge, told the judicial examiner Oliver Sells, QC, that the event was private for statements to be taken. Sells ruled that the hearing should go ahead in camera.

The Serious Fraud Office has assisted Akokrim, the Norwegian authority which prosecutes in tax cases and has charged Hauge with three offences: making a false tax return, failing to provide evidence about foreign companies which he controls, and gross fraud.

The fraud charge relates to concealment of the real amount of the consideration regarding the transfers of Pal Lydersen to Arsenal and Alf Inge Haaland to Forest.

Graham has already been punished by the FA for his part in the bung scandal over the signings of Lydersen and the Dane John Jensen. In July 1995 an FA commission charged him with bringing the game into disrepute. It was alleged that the £425,000 he received from Hauge was part of the money Arsenal had paid for the transfers of Lydersen and Jensen. He was fined £50,000 and banned from management for a year.

Pools Forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1	Arsenal	v Blackburn	1
2	Chelsea	v Leicester	1
3	Newcastle	v Derby	1
4	Nottm Forest	v Aston Villa	x
5	Sheff Wed	v Wimbledon	x
6	West Ham	v Everton	1

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

7	Bradford C	v Birmingham	2
8	Charlton	v Portsmouth	x
9	C Palace	v Barnsley	2
10	Grimsby	v Reading	1
11	Huddersfield	v West Brom	2
12	Ipso C	v QPR	1
13	Oldham	v Bolton	2
14	Oxford	v Swindon	x
15	Tranmere	v Sheff Utd	2
16	Wolves	v Southend	1

SECOND DIVISION

17	Burnley	v Rotherham	1
18	Chesterfield	v Millwall	2
19	Gillingham	v Blackpool	1
20	Luton	v Shrewsbury	1
21	Plymouth	v Walsall	2
22	Wrexham	v Watford	x
23	Wycombe	v Bournemouth	1
24	York	v Bristol C	2

THIRD DIVISION

25	Barnet	v Cardiff	2
26	Cambridge	v Brighton	1
27	Chester	v Scarborough	1
28	Darlington	v Hartlepool	1
29	Doncaster	v Fulham	2
30	Hereford	v Torquay	x
31	Hull	v L Orient	1
32	Lincoln	v Scunthorpe	x
33	Northampton	v Exeter	1
34	Swansea	v Mansfield	1

BELL'S SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

35	Hearts	v Dunfermline	1
36	Kilmarnock	v Hibernian	x
37	Motherwell	v Dundee Utd	2

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

38	Clydebank	v Falkirk	2
39	Dundee	v St Mirren	x
40	Morton	v Airdrie	2
41	St Johnstone	v East Fife	1
42	Stirling A	v Partick	2

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

43	Berwick	v Hamilton	2
44	Clyde	v Ayr Utd	2
45	Livingston	v Dumbarton	1
46	Stenhousemuir	v Queen of Sth	x
47	Stranraer	v Brechin	2

SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION

48	Cowdenbeath	v Alloa	2
49	East Stirling	v Inverness CT	2

Team talk

The independent news and reports service

0891 33 77+

Arsenal	08	Ipswich Town	19	Sheffield United	15
Aston Villa	11	Leeds United	03	Sheffield Wed.	14
Birm. City	34	Leicester City	35	Southhampton	20
Blackburn	21	Liverpool	04	Stoke City	30
Bolton	36	Man. City	02	Sunderland	27
Brentford	24	Man. United	01	Tottenham Hot.	07
Burnley	31	Middlesbrough	23	West Ham	12
Chelsea	06	Millwall	29	Wimbledon	26
Coventry City	17	Newcastle Utd	16	Wolves	37
Derby County	28	Norwich City	18	Celtic	09
Everton	05	Nottm. Forest	13	Rangers	10
Hudd. Town	32	QPR	25		

CALLS COST 50p PER MIN AT ALL TIMES.
SUPPLIED BY: IMS, 15 MARK LANE, LEEDS LS1 6LB. HELPLINE: 0171 713 4473

The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Results

Soccer

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP

Semi-final

Kilmarnock (0) 0 — Dundee Utd (0) 0
12,381
(Winners play Celtic or Falkirk in final)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

Second Division

Stockport (0) 1 — Watford (0) 0
Jeffers 52 — 7,184

TOP SEVEN	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bury	41	21	10	10	56	38	73
Stockport	40	20	12	8	53	38	72
Brentford	41	19	14	8	55	38	71
Luton	41	19	12	10	57	44	69
Crewe	41	21	5	15	51	42	68
Watford	42	16	16	10	57	39	64
Walsall	42	18	10	14	53	47	64

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Kidderminster 1, Woking 0; Stevenage 3, Farnborough 1.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Carshalton 2, St Albans 0. **Postponed:** Dag & Red v Chertsey Tn.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier Division: Emley 2, Leek Tn 3.

PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Derby 5, Stoke C. Leeds 2, Sheff Wed 0; Man Utd 4, Liverpool 0. **First:** Leicester 0, Sunderland 2; Preston 2, Notts Co 0. **Third:** Walsall 3, Bury 0. **League Cups Semi-finals York 2, Burnley 1.**

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: Luton 0, Swansea 0; Swindon 3, QPR 1.

WORLD CUP QUALIFYING (Manama): Asian zone: Bahrain 1, Jordan 0.

Golf

US MASTERS (Augusta, Georgia): **Final scores** (US unless stated): 270 T Woods 70, 66, 65, 69. 282 T Kite 77, 69, 66, 70. 283 T Tolles 72, 72, 72, 67. 284 T Watson 75, 69, 69, 72. 285 P Stankowski 69, 74, 69, 74; C Rocca (It) 71, 69, 70, 75. 286 B Langer (Ger) 72, 72, 74, 68; J Leonard 76, 69, 71, 70; F Couples 72, 69, 73, 72; D Love 72, 71, 72, 71; J Sluman 74, 67, 72, 73. 287 S Ellington (Aus) 76, 72, 72, 67; W Wood 72, 75, 71, 69; P-U Johansson (Swe) 72, 73, 73, 69; T Lehman 73, 75, 69, 69; J M Olazabal (Sp) 71, 70, 74, 72. 288 M Calcavecchia 74, 73, 72, 69; V Singh (Fiji) 75, 74, 69, 70; F Funk 73, 74, 69, 72; E Els (SA) 73, 70, 71, 74. 289 J Heaton 67, 77, 75, 70; S Appleby (Aus) 72, 78, 70, 71; J Parnevik (Swe) 73, 72, 71, 73. 291 L Westwood (GB) 77, 71, 73, 70; N Price (Zim) 72, 70, 75, 74. 292 C Stadler 77, 72, 71, 72; L Janzen 72, 73, 74, 73. 293 J Furyk 74, 75, 72, 72; P Azinger 69, 73, 77, 74. 294 L Mize 79, 69, 74, 72; S McCarron 77, 71, 72, 74; M O'Meara 75, 74, 70, 75; C Montgomerie (GB) 72, 67, 74, 81. 295 S Lyle (GB) 73, 73, 74, 75; F Zoeller 73, 73, 69, 80. 296 D Waldorf 74, 75, 72, 75. 297 D Frost (SA) 74, 71, 73, 79. 298 S Hoch 79, 69, 73, 78. 299 J Nicklaus 77, 70, 74, 78; S Torrance (GB) 75, 73, 73, 78; I Woosnam (GB) 77, 68, 75, 79. 300 M Ozaki (Japan) 74, 74, 74, 78. 301 C Pavin 73, 74, 78, 74; C Rose 73, 75, 79, 74. 302 B Crenshaw 75, 73, 74, 80. 303 F Robilo 78, 72, 74, 81.

Tennis

SALEM OPEN: Finals: **M Chang** (US) bt P Rafter (Aus) 6–3, 6–3.

JAPAN OPEN (Tokyo): **First round: Mens** S Stolle (Ger) bt A Olhovskiy (Rus) 6–3, 6–4; O Delaitre (Fr) bt R Smith (Bahamas) 6–7, 6–3, 6–3; C Arrieas (Ger) bt Y Yamamoto (Japan) 6–2, 7–5; J Philippe Fleurian (Fr) bt J Grabb (US) 6–3, 6–2; S Lareau (Can) bt S Simian (Fr) 6–3, 6–2; T Suzuki (Japan) bt A Thoms (Ger) 6–4, 6–2; J Gelpard (Fr) bt D Flach (US) 6–3, 6–4; N Holm (Swe) bt M Joyce (US) 4–6, 6–3, 7–6; R Sabau (Rom) bt T Shimada (Japan) 6–2, 6–2; F Fetterlein (Den) bt G Motomura (Japan) 3–6, 6–4, 6–3.

Women: R Rinaldi (Japan) bt Rita Grande (Italy) 6–1 6–7 6–3; M Seidel (Japan) bt T Tanasugarn (Thailand) 6–3, 6–4; Y Yoshida (Japan) bt A Glass (Ger) 6–1, 4–1, (ret); C Morariu (US) bt S Hee Park (SKor) 6–3, 6–2; M Tu (US) bt A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) 6–4, 6–4; A Sugiyama (Japan) bt D Halgren-Nielsen (US) 6–3, 7–5; W Sellting (Taiwan) bt H Inoue (Japan) 6–1, 6–1.

BARCELONA OPEN: **First round: B Furlan** (It) bt J Diaz (Sp) 6–7, 6–3, 7–5; **M Seeller** (Ger) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6–4, 2–6, 6–2; **A Berasategui** (Sp) bt N Carlsen (Den) 6–3, 6–4; **M Ondruska** (SAf) bt M Gustafson (Swe) 7–6, 3–6, 6–3; **C Costa** (Sp) bt S Schalken (Neth) 6–2, 6–1; **A Martin** (Sp) bt A Vedaa (Nor) 6–1, 6–1; **F Mantilla** (Sp) bt J Siemerink (Neth) 6–4, 6–3; **C Ruud** (Nor) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 6–3, 6–4; **D Johnson** (US) bt R Carretero (Sp) 7–6, 3–6, 6–6; **K Alami** (Mor) bt G Bianco (Sp) 6–4, 6–4; **G Schaller** (Aut) bt M Stich (Ger) 6–2, 6–2; **M Larsson** (Swe) bt D Hrbaty (Slovak) 7–5, 6–4.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 7, Seattle 1; Cleveland 3, Anaheim 0; Detroit 6, Chicago WS 11 (in 12, 1st game); Detroit 4, Chicago WS 2 (2nd); Baltimore 9, Texas 0; NY Yankees 3, Oakland 2 (1st game); NY Yankees 4, Oakland 7 (2nd); Kansas City 6, Minnesota 1; Milwaukee 3, Toronto 2.

Standings: East: 1, Baltimore (W7, L2, Pct.778, GB0); 2, Detroit (6–5–.500–2½); 3, Toronto (4–4–.500–2½); 4, NY Yankees (5–6–.455–3); **Central:** 1, Milwaukee (W4, L3, Pct.571, GB0); 2, Minnesota (6–5–.545–0); 3, Cleveland (5–5–.500–1); 4, Kansas City (4–5–.444–1); 5, Chicago WS (3–7–.300–2½). **West:** 1, Oakland (W7, L4, Pct.636, GB0); 2, Seattle (6–5–.545–1); 3, Anaheim (4–8–.400–2½); 4, Texas (3–6–.375–2½).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: NY Mets 1, San Francisco 5 (1st game); NY Mets 6, San Francisco 7 (2nd), Philadelphia 1, San Diego 3; Pittsburgh 6, Los Angeles 14; Cincinnati 6, Florida 4; Chicago Cubs 4, Atlanta 6; Colorado 3, Montreal 8; St Louis 6, Houston 2. **Standings: East:** 1, Florida (W8, L3, Pct.727, GB0); 2, Atlanta (8–3–.727–0); 3, Montreal (4–6–.444–3); 4, NY Mets (3–8–.273–5); 5, Philadelphia (3–8–.273–5). **Central:** 1, Houston (W7, L5, Pct.583, GB0); 2, Cincinnati (5–6–.455–1½); 3, Pittsburgh (4–6–.400–2); 4, St Louis (3–7–.300–3½); 5, Chicago Cubs (0–10–.000–6). **West:** 1, Los Angeles (W8, L3, Pct.727, GB0); 2, Colorado (7–3–.700–1); 3, San Francisco (7–3–.700–1); 4, San Diego (7–4–.636–1).

Basketball

NBA: Detroit 108, Chicago 91; Milwaukee 102, New Jersey 123; Houston 113, Seattle 73; LA Lakers 100, Utah 98; Golden State 97, Phoenix 105. **Standings: Eastern Conference Atlantic:** 1, Miami (W69, L19, Pct.766, GB0); 2, New York (54–24–.692–5); 3, Orlando (44–34–.564–16); 4, Washington (40–38–.513–19); 5, New Jersey (24–54–.308–35); 6, Philadelphia (21–57–.269–38); 7, Boston (14–65–.177–45½). **Central:** 1, †Chicago (W69, L11, Pct.861, GB0); 2, †Atlanta (54–24–.692–13½); 3, †Charlotte (52–26–.667–16½); 4, †Detroit (52–26–.667–16½); 5, Cleveland (40–38–.513–27½); 6, Indiana (36–40–.487–29½); 7, Milwaukee (31–47–.397–34½); 8, Toronto (26–50–.369–39½). **Western Conference Midwest:** 1, †Utah (W63, L18, Pct.769, GB0); 2, †Houston (54–25–.684–9½); 3, †Minnesota (36–40–.487–22½; 4, Dallas (23–55–.295–37½); 5, Denver (20–58–.256–40½); 6, San Antonio (20–58–.256–40½); 7, Vancouver (18–57–.169–43). **Pacific:** 1, †Seattle (W64, L25, Pct.864, GB0); 2, †LA Lakers (54–25–.684–0½); 3, †Portland (48–33–.593–6½); 4, †Phoenix (39–40–.494–15½); 5, LA Clippers (26–49–.449–28½); 6, Sacramento (22–48–.410–31½); 7, Golden State (20–50–.367–25). †Clinched play-off place. ‡Clinched Division title. §Clinched Conference title.

Boxing

WBC JUNIOR-FEATHERWEIGHT TITLE (Tokyo): **Daniel Zaragoza** (Mex, holder) bt Joichiro Tatsuyoshi pts.

Ice Hockey

NHL: Boston 7 Pittsburgh 3; Hartford 2 Tampa Bay 1; Dallas 2 Chicago 6; Detroit 1 St Louis 3; Buffalo 3 Washington 2; Philadelphia 5 New Jersey 4; Colorado 2 Los Angeles 4. **Final standings: Eastern Conference Northeast:** 1, †Buffalo (W40, L30, T12, GF237, GA208, Pts92); 2, †Pittsburgh (39–36–6–285–260–84); 3, †Ottawa (31–35–15–235–234–77); 4, †Montreal (31–36–15–249–276–77); 5, Hartford (32–39–11–228–258–75); 6, Boston (26–47–9–234–300–61). **Atlantic:** 1, †New Jersey (W45, L23, T14, GF231, GA182, Pts104); 2, †Philadelphia (45–24–13–274–217–103); 3, †Florida (35–28–19–221–201–89); 4, †NY Rangers (38–34–10–258–231–86); 5, Washington (28–40–8–214–231–76); 6, Tampa Bay (32–40–10–217–267–74); 7, NY Islanders (29–41–12–240–250–70). **Western Conference Central:** 1, †Dallas (W48, L29, T5, GF282, GA198, Pts104); 2, †Detroit (36–28–19–253–197–91); 3, †Phoenix (38–37–7–240–245–83); 4, †St Louis (36–35–11–258–238–83); 5, †Chicago (34–35–13–223–210–81); 6, Toronto (30–44–8–230–278–68). **Pacific:** 1, †Colorado (W48, L34, T9, GF277, GA205, Pts107); 2, †Anaheim (36–33–13–245–233–85); 3, †Edmonton (36–37–8–262–247–81); 4, Vancouver (35–40–7–257–273–77); 5, Calgary (32–41–9–214–238–73); 6, Los Angeles (25–43–11–214–285–67); 7, San Jose (27–47–8–211–276–62). †Clinched play-off place. ‡Clinched Division title. §Clinched Conference title

Hockey

MEN'S TOUR MATCH (Athens): Greece 2, Southgate Flagons 1.

ENGLISH WOMEN'S U-18 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: **North: Finals: Bradford** 0, Hightown 0 (3–1 pens); 2nd, Deeside & Stockport. **West** (Bristol): 1, Portishead 19; 2, East Glos 13; 3, Exmouth 13.

Motor Sport

CATALUNYA RALLY: Leading positions (at the end of the sixth stage, first rec): 1, C McRae (GB) Subaru 1hr 04min 17sec; 2, P Liatti (It) Subaru 1:04.18; 3, T Makinen (Fin) Mitsubishi 1:04.28; 4, A Medeghini (It) Subaru 1:05.05; 5, C Sainz (Sp) Ford 1:05.23; 6, J Arcena (Sp) Peugeot 1:05.25; 7, A Schwarz (Ger) Ford 1:05.50; 8, R Madeira (Por) Subaru 1:06.25; 9, U Nittel (Ger) Mitsubishi 1:06.45.

Squash

WOMEN'S CIRCUIT (Queens Club, Hellfax): **Semi-finals: R Bisgrove** (Essex) bt A Wray (Yorks) 9–10, 9–4, 9–4, 9–7; J Trembath (Cornw) bt S Brind (Kent) 9–10, 9–1, 10–8, 9–0. **Finals: Bisgrove** bt Trembath 7–9, 7–9, 9–0, 9–5, 9–5.

Table Tennis

COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS (Glasgow): **Mens Group A: England 4, South Africa 0.** (Eng first): **A Perry** bt S Ovenstone 21–11, 21–8; **B Bellingham** bt K Petersen 21–16, 21–16; **G Herbert** bt D Goedecke 21–14, 21–10; **Perry/G Herbert** bt G Petersen/Ovenmeyer 21–9, 21–14. **England 4, Mauritius 0.** (Eng first): **G Herbert** bt G Dossen 21–15, 21–6; **A Perry** bt C Sabapathee 21–12, 21–7; **B Bellingham** bt R Bhartan 21–10, 21–13; **Herbert/Perry:** bt J Ganegam/H Thynjoon 21–5, 21–13. **Group B: Scotland 3, Singapore 4. Group C: Canada 4, Wales 1; Australia 4, Wales 1. Group D: Northern Ireland 4, Cyprus 0; Northern Ireland 4, Barbados 0.**

Women: Group A: England 4, New Zealand 0 (England first): **N Deakin** bt T Epps 21–6, 21–7; **M Lawson** bt S Finch 21–10, 21–12; **L Rochford** bt D.Garrett 21–11, 21–10; **A Neal/L Lawson** bt Finch/Garrett 21–12, 21–19. **England 4, Malaysia 0.** (Eng first): **N Deakin** lost to Lia Jing Yee 21–15, 21–4; **L Lawson** bt Bee-Sim Phua 21–10, 21–11; **A Neal** bt Lee Fong Seik 21–12, 21–11; **Lawson/Neal** bt Lee/Bee 21–6, 15–21, 21–15; **Lomas** lost to Lia 21–19, 22–20; **Neal** bt Bee 21–12, 22–20.

Fixtures

(7.30 unless stated)

Soccer

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First Division: Barnsley v Oldham (7.45); Birmingham v Tranmere (7.45); Crystal Palace v Stoke (7.45). **Second Division:** Blackpool v Luton; Brentford v Chesterfield (7.45); Bristol C v Wrexham (7.45); Bury v Crewe (7.45); Notts Co v Plymouth (7.45); Wycombe v Barnsley (7.45). **Third Division:** Cardiff v Scunthorpe; Hull v Colchester.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier Division: Raith v Rangers (7.45).

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Aylesbury v Hendon (7.45); Boreham Wood v Yeading; Dulwich v Sutton Utd; Grays v Staines (7.45); Heybridge v Enfield. **First Division:** Barton Rvrs v Wokingham Tn; Canvey Island v Bognor; Regis Tn; Tooting & Mitcham Utd v Thame Utd; Uxbridge v Billericay Tn; Worthing v Abingdon Tn. **Second Division:** Barking v Edgware Tn; Bedford Tn v Ware; Bracknell Tn v Banstead Ath; Collier Row & Romford v Leatherhead; Horsham v Tilbury; Wembley v Witham Tn. **Third Division:** Epsom & Ewell v Wingate & Finchley; Hertford Tn v Northwood; Hornchurch v Aveley; Southall v Clapton.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier Division: Buxton v Knowsley; Frickley v Gainsborough; Guiseley v Marine; Lancaster v Alfreton Tn; Runcorn v Bamber Bridge; Witton Alb v Winsford Utd. **First Division North:** Congleton Tn v Curzon Ashton; Gt Harwood Tn v Farsley Celtic; Radcliffe Bor v Ashton Utd; Warrington Tn v Workington; Workso Tn v Lincoln Utd.

DR MARTENS LEAGUES: Premier Division: Ashford Tn v Baldock Tn (7.45); Crawley Tn v Dorchester; Hastings v Salisbury. **Postponed:** Gloucester C v Atherstone. **Cups: Final, first leg:** Burton Alb v Sudbury Tn. **Midland Division:** Grantham Tn v Corby Tn; Rainds Tn v Shepshed Dynamo; Redditch Utd v Hinckley Tn; Tamworth v Bedworth Utd. **Southern Division:** Fleet Tn v Margate; Trowbridge Tn v Witney Tn; Weston-S-Mare v Clevedon Tn.

NEW COUNTIES LEAGUE: First Division: Alberton Gotterles v Maine Road; Nantwich Tn v Ellesmere Port; Prescot Cables v Hanley. **Cheshire Senior Cup: Semi-final, second leg:** Vauxhall GM v Newcastle Tn.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier Division: Arnold Tn v Liversedge; Hucknall Tn v Belper Tn; Ossett Tn v North Ferriby Utd.

SCARBOROUGH DISTRICT LEAGUE: Premier Division: Bridgwater Tn v Mangotsfield Utd; Westbury Utd v Paulton Rvrs.

PONTINS LEAGUE: First Division: Coventry v Aston Villa (7.0). **Second Division:** Grimsby v Man C (7.0). **Third Division:** Chesterfield v Lincoln (7.0).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: Oxford Utd v Norwich.

S-E COUNTIES LEAGUE: League Cup: Semi-finals: Tottenham v West Ham.

PRINCE'S TR: Man Utd v Celtic (8.0).

FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier Division: Derry C v Shamrock Rvrs; Flan Harps v Shelbourne; St Patricks Ath v Sligo Rvrs.

Rugby Union

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: League One: Harlequins v Bristol; Sale v Saracens (7.15).

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE: First Division: Newbridge v Ebbw Vale (7.15).

Rugby League

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Leeds v Castleford; St Helens v Salford.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Second Division: Hull Dockers v Milford.

Cricket

THREE-DAY MATCHES (11.30): **Fenners:** Cambridge University v Derbyshire. **The Parks:** Oxford University v Durham.

Basketball

BUDWEISER LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-finals, second legs: London v Newcastle; Sheffield v Manchester.

Ice Hockey

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Poland): **Pool B:** Austria v Denmark (4.0, Katowice); Belarus v Kazakhstan (4.0, Sosnowiec); Switzerland v Poland (8.0, Katowice); Great Britain v Netherlands (8.0, Sosnowiec).

● The world swimming championships will be staged every two years instead of four from 2001, the International federation, Fina, announced yesterday. The short-course championships will take place every two years from 2000.

Sport in brief

Table Tennis

Lisa Lomas helped England's women reach the second stage of the Commonwealth Championships in Glasgow yesterday after a lengthy delay when she protested about her Malaysian's opponent's bat, *writes Richard Jago*. England beat New Zealand 4–0 and Malaysia 4–2.

Sailing

In order to conform with an International Olympic Committee mandate that there should be 30 per cent participation by women in all sports by 2004, the International Sailing Federation's president, Paul Henderson of Canada, is asking for an 11th medal for the Sydney Games, *writes Bob Fisher*. He wishes to keep the 10 classes of last year plus the 49er, a new class, and would seek to convert one class to a women's match-racing event.

Hockey

Camnock have appealed to the Hockey Association after their 6–4 HA Cup quarter-final defeat against Teddington, *writes Pat Rowley*. The rules of the competition were contravened when 15 minutes were added to normal extra-time. Teddington scored twice during this extension. Teddington are drawn away to Surbiton in the semi-finals on Sunday week while Reading entertain St Albans.

Badminton

A record 67 countries have entered the world championships that start in Glasgow on May 19, *writes Richard Jago*. The tournament will comprise five individual competitions and a 13-division Sudir

CRICKET: The new season is yet to start . . .

Hope high on latest agenda

Mike Selvey on what the new regime needs to do to give England a boost

SEASON after season the bubbles of spring optimism that float above county grounds from Taunton to Gateshead, not to mention the hot-air balloon over Lord's, have burst by September.

A fresh season limps in today at The Parks and Fenner's with that perennial oxymoron, first-class university cricket, and once more hope abounds. There is a new administration in place and the England team, we are told, put their cares behind them in New Zealand and won a Test series in some style.

The captain has been reappointed for the summer on the understanding that he maintains his more positive outlook and shaves his chin. And the Australians are coming.

Already the new England and Wales Cricket Board is making its mark, despite the fact that Lord MacLaurin, its chairman, is a disconcertingly busy man with interests ranging far beyond Lord's.

Already he has demonstrated leadership, insisting that the performance of the senior national side is paramount in the overall survival of the game in this country. He has told the counties that putting their own interests first serves little purpose in the game's long-term future.

Writing in this year's Wisden he hints strongly at a radical agenda, including the amount of domestic one-day cricket, the possibility that uncovered pitches might harden up techniques, a divisional championship: anything, he says, "to help get it right at the top level so that the other levels can thrive." It is heartening stuff.

But the agenda, MacLaurin concedes, is geared to maintaining the game's status in 20 years' time. In the meantime there is an urgent need to upgrade the perception of the national side and in an Ashes year it will not be easy.

Over the past few years, since Mike Atherton set out to make England harder to beat, they do not lose matches any more frequently than the Australians. But Australia win more and, when they lose, it is generally after a series has been decided.

Unfortunately England are notoriously slow out of the blocks and need to address that problem urgently. We have a lack of world-class players in the side and a depressing dearth of quality bowling, but Australia, too, have problems and can be beaten.

But there is another agenda, and it concerns the perception of what is important and what is not. A little more than a year ago Sri Lanka won the World Cup while England made fools of themselves. Since then little has happened to change the impression that England are light years away from the best in one-day cricket.

In part this can be attributed to the little international cricket we play compared with some countries. The only surprise about Sri Lanka becoming world champions, for example, is that anybody was surprised at all. Half a dozen of their side had played more than 100 limited-overs internationals; England are wet behind the ears by comparison.

While we play far too much domestic limited-overs cricket we do not play remotely enough at international level. The fact that we are sending a side to Sharjah in December for the first time in a decade is evidence that we have woken up to some extent, but we need to enter everything we can to keep up with the rest.

We have to understand that limited-overs cricket is a main event in its own right, parallel to, and therefore separate from, Test cricket and, like it or not, of equal importance.

At home we should cultivate a separate squad system, the continuity of which is unrelated to Test matches: away, we should ensure that itineraries mean one-day games grouped together and we choose the best possible team to do that job, flying them in and out as required. The squad might have its own specialist coach — Dermot Reeve springs to mind — and it should, if necessary, have a different captain unencumbered by the outmoded and ridiculous convention that the England Test captain runs the show across the board.

Finally, if we are to compete adequately in the next World Cup in 1999 — which, as it is in our own backyard, ought to be feasible — the build-up should start with this year's Texaco matches.

It will not, of course, because already Atherton, who will probably not be playing in that next tournament and whose capacity to captain one-day games is limited, has nonetheless been appointed for the summer. For the time being at least, short-termism prevails.

MacLaurin . . . radical

Catching on . . . Dermot Reeve sports a baseball mitt as he leads fielding practice with his new charges at Somerset PHOTOGRAPH: TIM CUFF

David Foot finds Somerset's new coach as competitive as ever with a side determined to make fitness pay

Reeve raises the sights at Taunton

. . . already they've troubled the scorers

MAYBE we should not be surprised by Dermot Reeve's arrival at Taunton as county cricket's newest coach. He says he has always had an affinity with Somerset, and in his Hong Kong days made a special visit to Lord's with his mother to watch them play in the final of the Gillette Cup. Reeve may not even know that Peter Roebuck made out an eloquent case in the early '80s that he should be signed; he went instead to Sussex, and then on to Warwickshire.

The face, after all, is more that of a crafty poacher than Brummie slicker. He is already ensconced in a pretty village a few miles from the county ground, not that he is likely to remain as tranquil by nature as those country lanes and honeyed cottages might suggest. The words continue to rattle away at the rate of an auctioneer at a Priddy sheep fair.

He says he is excited and the chameleon features light up. "The amount of talent here is greater than I'd expected. And I can honestly say that in all my years of county cricket, this is the fittest bunch of players I've ever had the pleasure of working with."

Reeve has never courted popularity or gone in for glib confection in the name of public relations, so there can be little doubt he means what he says. In fact, there is no evidence of extra inches around the midriffs of his team. But Somerset renowned for their physical prowess? When Brian Close came to shake things up a quarter of a century ago, he implied that some of the team would not qualify for an egg-and-spoon race. Already Reeve has introduced bonus schemes, aligned to fitness. Plenty of cash is going to be earned.

When he did the same at Warwickshire, the results were disappointing. He wants Somerset to make an immediate impact when the season starts, and the new coach is pushing hard with training and overseeing diets. He ponders, with a half-grin, the maverick-like titles he has acquired from a background that incorporates famed exchanges with batsmen who do not walk and his caber-like throwing of the bat last season as a protest at negative bowling into the rough.

As a player, he willed himself beyond his innate ability; he dared, he experimented, he made things happen with that cussed tactical imagination. He specialises in silverware and he wants to fill the empty spaces in Somerset's trophy cabinet. His own troublesome hip has deteriorated further in the past 10 months — he has a constant ache and "I limp a bit" — and he reluctantly accepted that he would not play again.

Not that he would have been needed. Colin Wells was brought in from Derbyshire as Reeves' assistant, to look after the 2nd XI and, if required, to play some senior cricket. "I've been so impressed with what I've found at the club that I've told Colin to focus on his other roles and forget all about Championship cricket," Reeve said.

He has also brought in Warwickshire's former second-choice wicketkeeper Mike Burns to use, if necessary, as a bowler, and signed the towering off-spinner Steve Herzberg, formerly with Kent, to compete with Harvey Trump. "I didn't feel the balance of the team was quite right."

When Reeve was forced to give up playing, he knew he could make a living from after-dinner speaking (where some of his mimickry is in the Rory Bremner class) and media work. "That after-dinner speaking seemed to me more a sort of entertainment, a bit false. I like to deal with the real world, with players on a daily basis. I've always enjoyed coaching. My girlfriend heard me talking to some of the boys and told me I was born for the job."

Who was it said that Reeve was stronger on motivation than humility? He has upset a formidable number over the years and doubtless will go on ruffling feathers. "What is important is having my players' respect. I shall doubtless make mistakes — I made one today at the team meeting, cutting off one of the players with a rather withering comment as he put his point of view. Afterwards I realised it was wrong of me."

He says he has never enjoyed a pre-season so much. "I'm weighing the players up, analysing their skills. I have always taken the view that you can over-tinker with a player's technique. Much of the game is in the head."

He talks a lot about "attention to detail" and is refreshingly free of coach-manual jargon. He also dismisses the rebel tag with which he has been saddled. "Largely a myth," he says. But he is prepared to settle for "competitive". "There's a sharp dividing line between competitive and cocky, of course."

Boxing

Pay TV here to stay — Warren

John Rawling

PAY-per-view television for championship boxing is the future, according to Frank Warren. The promoter believes armchair fight fans will have to pay extra for all major championship promotions staged in Britain from now on, starting with his triple world title bill in Manchester on May 3.

Naseem Hamed defends his IBF and WBO featherweight titles against the European champion Billy Hardy in the principal bout at the Nynex arena that night, with the WBC super-middleweight champion Robin Reid defending his title in another all-British fight against Henry Wharton, and Steve Foster challenging the WBO light-middleweight champion Ronald "Winky" Wright of the United States.

Sky television subscribers will be asked to pay £11.95 to watch if they pay in advance (£2 more than before), or £14.95 if they buy on the day.

Previous pay-per-view boxing ventures on Sky have been a commercial success, although this is the first time viewers have had to pay extra for an exclusively British event. The Evander Holyfield-Mike Tyson heavyweight title rematch was to have been part of the package but Tyson's eye injury sustained in training means that fight has been rescheduled for June 28.

Warren's near monopoly of British-based title events, coupled with the exclusive deal he has signed with BSkyB, leaves boxing fans with little option other than to find the extra cash. The refusal at the weekend of the BBC or ITV networks to buy the Oscar de la Hoya-Pernell Whitaker fight, an outstanding match, suggests terrestrial television either will not or cannot compete.

Warren said he could not envisage another major promotion being shown live on British television free of charge. "People may not like to hear it but you only need to look to America to see the future, and all the big shows there are on pay per view."

Hamed's immediate fighting future, should he beat Hardy, seems certain to be in Las Vegas. Warren is close to clinching a deal for Hamed to take on the WBA champion Wilfredo Vasquez of Puerto Rico in a lucrative unification bout.

The Sheffield man's international profile could rise further in October, with plans for Hamed to satisfy his fanatical Arab following by fighting in the Middle East, probably in Saudi Arabia or Dubai.

Athletics

McColgan out of marathon

Duncan Mackay

LIZ McCOLGAN, who had been pre-selected, yesterday gave Britain's marathon selectors the news they did not want to hear when she withdrew from the team for the World Championships.

The decision not to run the event in the heat and pollution of Athens is hardly a surprise but, coming so soon after Paul Evans said he would not be making the trip, it leaves the selectors with even more head-scratching to do before coming up with 12 men and women good and true who want to run in an event incorporating the World Cup.

McColgan refused to look back in anger the day after being beaten by Joyce Chepchumba in the last few strides of the closest London Marathon so far. She preferred to dwell on the positive rather than the negative, particularly her time of 2hr 26min 52sec.

"I ran a personal best and that's a good sign the training went well," she said. "I'm getting stronger and better. I'm convinced that I'm ready to run a really fast marathon and to do that I need good conditions, which I won't get in Athens."

McColgan will probably be in the Greek capital, however, competing in the 10,000 metres — the event for which she won the gold medal in Tokyo six years ago. But she is already focusing on preparing for an autumn marathon. The options include Chicago and Berlin, both of which have fast courses and are generally held in good weather conditions.

Richard Nerurkar, fifth in the men's race on Sunday, has yet to decide about Athens but there is certain to be a place for his Bingley Harriers club-mate Steve Brooks, who was 15th, in 2.13.55, in only his second marathon.

Rugby Union

Wales cash row

Paul Rees

WALES's leading clubs have been put on a war footing again after being told that the eight sides in the new premier division next season will each receive only £150,000 from the Welsh Rugby Union's pool of television money.

The WRU stands to generate £10 million in each of the next three seasons from its various television deals and the premier division clubs were hoping to share 40 per cent of it. Information leaked to them suggests that the figure will be nearer 10 per cent.

The 12-strong First Division Rugby Ltd meets tonight and will hear calls for a ban on television cameras at grounds next season, and even a boycott of the Premier Division itself, unless the WRU makes a significantly improved offer.

One club official said: "The union is offering us peanuts. Our rivals in England are set to receive £1 million each next season. How are we meant to compete with £150,000?

"It is totally unacceptable and, unless the WRU gets back to the negotiating table, they will not find a club in the Premier Division next season prepared to open its doors to the television cameras. We thought the days of fighting the union had ended."

The WRU plans to augment the income of the eight clubs by dividing £350,000 among the four who will be competing in the Heineken Cup, with the other four, who will be competing in the European Conference, sharing £250,000.

"It is still woefully inadequate," said the club official. "The WRU created the Premier Division with the aim of making sure the leading players remained in Wales but they are not giving us the means of keeping them."

Only Cardiff of the leading Welsh clubs are financially independent. They hope to raise £4 million through a private share scheme; two businessmen have already each pledged £500,000.

Llanelli, however, will finish the season more than £700,000 in the red. The club has asked members for donations up to £100,000. If there are few takers, the Stradey Park ground may be sold.

● Bath have appointed the former All Blacks fitness coach Jim Blair to work full-time alongside the coaches Andy Robinson, Clive Woodward and Nigel Redman. "Our fitness levels need improving," Woodward said. "They are fine by English first division standards, but not in comparison with leading sides across the world."

The Scotland-born, 62-year-old Blair is currently fitness adviser to the Super-12 champions Auckland, and spent five years with the All Blacks between 1986 and 1991. He has also assisted Western Samoa, and helped New Zealand's yachtsmen prepare for the America's Cup.

Rallying

Peugeots set surprise pace

David Williams in Lloret de Mar

COLIN McRAE and Subaru are the standards by which others are judged on the handful of asphalt rounds of the World Rally Championship, but the 28-year-old Scot was made to fight hard for a narrow lead on the first day of the Catalonia Rally.

The challenge came from an unexpected source. For most of yesterday's loop through the hills north of the Costa Brava, McRae — like the other four-wheel-drive competitors — was puffing to keep up with the French Rally champion Gilles Panizzi and his lightweight two-wheel-drive Peugeot.

The speed of the Peugeots left the world championship circus aghast but consistency told when Panizzi's team-mate François Delecour skidded into a field. Panizzi himself lost two minutes with a puncture. At the same time McRae had raised the pace a notch to squeeze past his Subaru team-mates Piero Liatti and the world champion Tommi Makinen.

McRae will find Makinen and his improved Mitsubishi an implacable adversary on the crucial stages of the second leg. Liatti is a second in arrears. "I'm happy enough but we're at 100 per cent," McRae said.

Motor Racing

Ferrari remain narrow-minded

Alan Henry

FERRARI could put the present rude health of Formula One at risk by insisting that rule changes which would make grand prix cars much narrower are introduced for 1998.

It is ironic that the Italian team should be in this position after Sunday's Argentine Grand Prix in Buenos Aires where Jacques Villeneuve's split-second victory over Eddie Irvine in the Ferrari provided further evidence of the sport's current vigour.

While the rest of the constructors now want to leave the cars substantially unchanged, Ferrari are standing out against any backtracking. Unanimity is required on the F1 Commission when rule changes are proposed at short notice and Ferrari could veto attempts to overturn the latest ones.

It was in an effort to provide even better racing that the sport's governing body, the Fia, adopted a recommendation to reduce the width of the cars from 200cm to 180cm, 5cm narrower than a Formula 3 car. The measure would ensure that the cars develop less aerodynamic downforce, which would in turn reduce cornering speeds.

There have been signs of greater competition at the front of the grid in the first three races of the year and the tactical nature of the racing in this first season of the tyre-war between Goodyear and Bridgestone has added a welcome element of unpredictability.

Fia also appears to be backtracking. Its vice-president Bernie Ecclestone said in Argentina: "There is no proof that narrowing the cars will do what we want it to do. Every time we change something, the guys with the money say 'no problem, let's change,' and the other guys are struggling. So I think you'll find after 1998 there will be no need to do anything and the regulations will be fixed for a longer period."

This week in Barcelona the Williams test driver Jean-Christophe Boullion will evaluate a narrow version of Villeneuve's car. Williams do not want the new rules but they intend to be among the best prepared if they are obliged to accept them.

Rugby League

Kiwis pick Paul for Sydney game days before Wembley final

Paul Fitzpatrick

BRADFORD Bulls were officially "delighted" yesterday that Robbie Paul had been picked for New Zealand's against Australia in Sydney on Friday week — eight days and an enervating long-haul flight from his May 3 date at Wembley for the Challenge Cup final.

"There is no greater honour than to be chosen for your country," the Bulls spokesman added, though it understandably sounded as if it came through gritted teeth.

The Bulls' 21-year-old captain and half-back will not only miss two Super League matches — against Halifax on April 23 and Sheffield on April 27 — but runs the risk of severe jet-lag going into the final against St Helens, which was officially declared a 77,500 sell-out yesterday.

The only bright spot was that, as one of the Kiwis' substitutes, at least Paul's playing duties at the Sydney Football Stadium might not be excessively demanding.

"Obviously Robbie's selection will cause some disruption," the Bradford spokesman added, "but I'm sure our coaching staff will be able to overcome any problems." Last year Paul became the first man to score three tries in a Challenge Cup final, which earned him £10,000 and the Lance Todd Trophy for man of the match.

He and his older brother Henry are the only two English-based players chosen for New Zealand. Henry, the Wigan back now recovering from injury, will play at full-back in the absence of the captain Matthew Ridge and appears earmarked for goal-kicking duties.

David Ward became the seventh coach to part company with his club yesterday when he left Featherstone Rovers. The former Leeds and Great Britain hooker had been in charge since October 1994 at Rovers, who were expected to be one of the powers in the First Division but who are second from bottom with only three points from seven games.

John Schuster, Halifax Blue Sox's goalkicking Western Samoan centre, broke a bone in his leg against London Broncos on Sunday and will be out for at least six weeks.

NEW ZEALAND: H Paul; S Hoppe, R Wiki, J Timu, R Barnett; G Ngamu, S Jones; O Pongia, S Eru, G Young, S Kearney (capt), T Iro, T Nikau. Substitutes: J Vagana, T Smith, T Ropati, R Paul.

The fabulous future of Tiger Woods, page 13

Graham gives evidence in secret, page 14

Back to basics with Dermot Reeve, page 15

Naseem fight for pay-per-view TV, page 15

SportsGuardian

THE SUMMER STARTS HERE

Durham parade a new Boon

WHEN backs are to the wall there can be few better cricketers to have walking down the pavilion steps on your side than David Boon. So the former Australia batsman and Durham, bottom of the county championship in four of their five years in the competition, seem made for each other.

Boon, who dug Australia out of many a hole in his 107 Tests, took over as Durham's manager-captain yesterday aiming to instil some of his renowned Tasmanian grit into the team.

The walrus-mustachio'd Boon enters the fray in Durham's opening game of the season against Oxford University at The Parks today.

"I see Durham as a young club who haven't been in first-class cricket very long and very similar to how Tasmania were six to seven years ago. If I can use some of those experiences it will help our cause," he said.

PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD RAYNER

Mike Selvey questions the appointment of the England captain for the whole series against Australia including one-day games

Atherton given the Ashes vote

MIKE ATHERTON has been given a vote of confidence by the new England selection committee and invited to lead England in matches against Australia this summer. It means he is set to overtake Peter May as England's longest-serving Test captain. David Graveney, the chairman of a panel that also includes the former England captains Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, officially announced Atherton's reappointment at a lunch yesterday, when it was also revealed that Alec Stewart, who once vied with Atherton for the captaincy, was the Cornhill Player of the Year after his exploits as wicketkeeper-batsman.

Atherton's reappointment covers the six-Test Ashes series as well as the three Texaco one-day internationals, and confirms him in a job he has held since Gooch stood down after four matches of the last Ashes series in this country four years ago. Atherton has led England on 40 occasions, with 10 wins and 13 defeats, and will equal May's 41-match record in the first Test at Edgbaston in early June, passing it, appropriately, at Lord's in the next match.

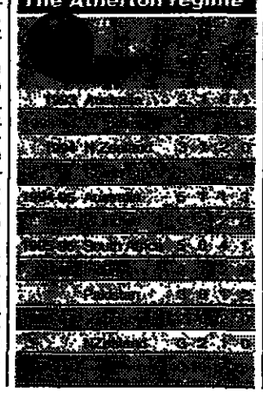
Although in recent weeks Atherton had been widely expected to be allowed to continue in the job, there was sufficient cause for concern during last winter's tour, particularly the first leg in Zimbabwe, for there to be speculation that the chairman of the new England and Wales Cricket Board, Lord MacLaurin, might demand his replacement. But the improvements in the Tests in New Zealand, culminating in back-to-back wins, and the captain's superb contributions with the bat after a long slump in form, have convinced the selectors he is the right man to take the challenge to the Australians.

Atherton believes his appointment sends out positive signals. "I think my appointment shows the right amount of confidence and stability, and that is the message that will be given to the Aussies."

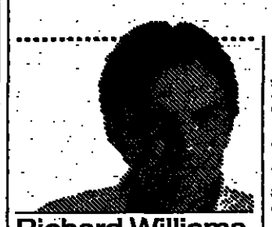
However, the selectors have missed several chances to break with tradition. For a start, it has always seemed a nonsense to appoint the captain for a specified period, be it one match or a season. Instead he should be given the job until he is fired or resigns: that is a more sensible way to establish continuity.

Of more significance is the continuing principle of appointing the same leader, regardless, for both Tests and one-day matches. Increasingly over the past 18 months the view has formed that, while Atherton can be an inspirational leader in Tests, albeit largely from his own example with the bat, his leadership in one-day games, where innovation and speed of thought are paramount, has been found wanting. It is a view that holds some sympathy in official sources and it may well be that after this summer the convention is at last jettisoned.

The Atherton regime



Master must address the 'slave' trade



Richard Williams

TIGER WOODS said the focus had never left him through that triumphant final round. He had just come in to talk to reporters after taking a telephone call from the President of the United States, who is currently off games after an accident at the home of another pro golfer.

But Woods did remember one bad moment. It came on the 18th tee, as he was winding up his drive. "I was at the top of my swing," he said, "when a photographer took a picture, and then fired off two more on the way down. That was uncalled for."

Disturbed, he hooked the ball into the gallery and was left with the need to scramble the last par that would give him his US Masters scoring record.

Hang on a minute. Isn't Tiger Woods the golfer we now know him to be because Lt Col Earl Woods drew on his own training with the Green Berets in Vietnam — specifically the techniques of prisoner interrogation — to bullet-proof his infant son against such moments? Wasn't he in the habit of dropping a club at a vital moment, or moving his shadow into the boy's eyeline, so that in years to come his prodigy would be able to handle any distraction?

"It wasn't a natural noise," the new Masters champion said. "The rustling of the trees, stuff like that, noises that are natural to a golf course, you don't hear them."

But Tiger got his par, and his record, in a way that confirmed his father's subsequent words. "He has the tools and the mental toughness," Earl Woods said, "but what he also has is a creative mind. And it's so powerful that it enables him to see escape routes which aren't there for a normal person. That's why he's so dangerous when he's in trouble."

The key to this, in his father's view, is a particular attitude to the job. "It's not work to Tiger," Earl Woods said. "It's play. When he's out there, he's not working. He's playing. He's at play."

It can hardly be as simple as that. After all, when Earl Woods was asked for an immediate reaction to his son's achievement, these were his words: "What a great, great job. It's marvellous when a kid can go out there and execute a game plan."

So is he doing a job, or is he at play?

The fact remains that Earl Woods has done enough to deserve the title of coach of the decade. He took a baby boy and turned him into someone that people are thinking might become the greatest golfer of all time. This took the sort of vision and persistence that nowadays arouses our suspicion, thanks to the Stefano Capriatis of this world, who have made us unsure about the point at which "tough love" shades into a dangerous obsession.

So far as one can tell from the middle distance, Earl and Kultida Woods have also produced a 21-year-old man of considerable maturity. If true, this gives their son a chance of turning his good fortune into a long and happy life, despite — and this is not said facetiously — the burden of all those millions of Nike dollars in his bank account.

He may even be mature enough to deal with the tainted nature of those dollars. This means confronting, at some point, the issue raised in a recent New York Times report about Nike's use of child labour in Vietnam to make the shoes bought by the kids who see Tiger Woods on TV and in the company's ads.

THE Vietnamese child labourers, and the older women who also work for Nike's manufacturers, exist in conditions barely distinguishable from slavery, which is ironic since so much was made about Woods being the first black golfer to win a major, two days before the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking major league baseball's colour bar. There was a lot of talk in Augusta about goals and dreams and making things possible for others.

"Tiger didn't ask for this role model business," said Earl Woods, who nicknamed his son after a South Vietnamese army buddy, "but he accepts it and he will do the best he can."

"I think as I've got older I've understood why the big guy in the sky gave me these talents," Tiger Woods said. "The main reason is to help people."

Opening up the country clubs of America to ghetto youth is not a bad priority. But another way of helping might be to find out for himself about the people who stitch his shoes together. And to focus, for an undistracted moment, on that.

Midland Bank plc reserves the right not to open an account. Credit subject to status. Call 0800 180 180 for full written details.

For the lady waiting for the 36 to Harrogate who said 'banks take months to set up your account' and that it was 'boring' and 'frankly not worth the hassle'

Midland Bank will have your new account ready in seven working days.

Every new Midland Bank customer has an account opening guarantee. So you can be sure of receiving your cheque book and card within five working days and have your PIN number within seven working days.

Should we not live up to this promise, we will give you £10 in compensation.

We can also arrange an interest-free overdraft for two months whilst you settle in.

Our account opening guarantee is just one of the many bright ideas that we've built into the new Midland Bank Account.

Call 0800 180 180

or visit a branch

or cut the coupon.

Midland

The Listening Bank

Member HSBC Group

http://www.midlandbank.com

Complete the coupon in block capitals and return to: Midland Bank plc, FREEPOST SWB 332, Bristol, BS1 6BR.

Mr/Ms/Mrs/Miss/Other (please specify) Initials Surname

House name/number Street

Town

County Postcode

Daytime tel no (inc. STD) Evening tel no (inc. STD)

GUAR 12/4

Do you hold other Midland accounts? ☐ Yes ☐ No (please tick). May we send you information about our products and services in future? ☐ Yes ☐ No (please tick)

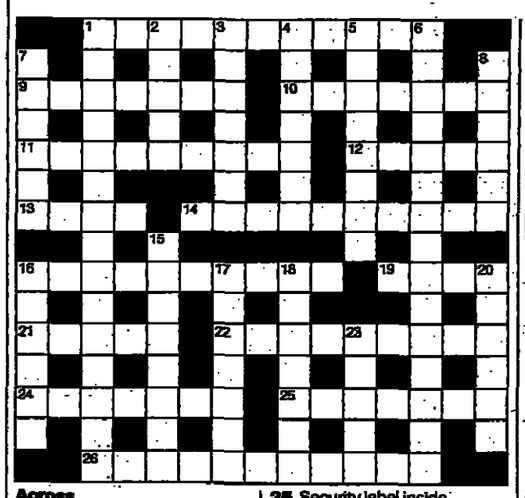
Naomi's straightened hair and racehorse physique have rewarded her with wealth and fame, allowing her to hang out with Robert De Niro, for whom the rules don't count, or Mike Tyson, who thought they didn't.

Linda Grant

G2 p7

Guardian Crossword No 20,938

Set by Hendra

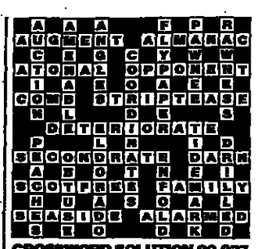


Across

1 Reverse angle, a contrast (11)
9 Last stops of better half taking car (7)
10 Behaves contemptuously towards lad brought into union (7)
11 Pad on a cut, possibly? (9)
12 A ring forming coral reef (5)
13 Rotten Row (4)
14 Fixer-paper, a suggested explanation? (10)
16 Cockerell's baby provided with air-cushion (10)
19 Brisk drive, second to flag (4)
21 Unyielding soldier in clear (5)
22 Licensed for three-card trick (9)
24 Beg, in French, to join celebration (7)
25 Security label inside stockings (7)
26 Earnest talk all about pit-viper (11)

Down

1 Latin-derived name for Chichester (15)
2 University can put up English couple (5)
3 Attempt to retain one record of The Norman Conquests, say (7)
4 Italian dish to stir and cook with onion top (7)
5 Presumably, one tacks on cold sheets (3-5)
6 Resort ordering newer mousetraps? (6-5-4)
7 Rembrandt was one, constant in clear air (6)
8 Some aspects of crooks (6)
15 Bank permit about to expire (8)
16 Beasts of the field (6)
17 Peculiar article in Reading, perhaps (7)
18 Shimmers and shakes (7)
20 Gerund-grinder's poker (6)
23 She sings to Scarpia in the opening (5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,937

Solution tomorrow

Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0891 338 238. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Service supplied by ATS

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first six months of 1996

ABFPRT